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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

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If the marginalised sections in society are to achieve economic growth and rise up on par with others, they should come up in education. Economic growth will reach the lower strata only through the spread of good education all over the State.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** inaugurated the launch of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Celebrations at Amma Thidal, Pandi Kovil, Madurai on 30.06.2017 by lighting a kuthuvilakku. Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha Thiru. Dr. M. Thambidurai, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs participated.

Exhorting party workers to serve unitedly, Chief Minister says MGR's movement will flourish for centuries

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil NaduThiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the MGR Centenary inaugural function at Madurai on 30.06.2017 (English Translation)

My respects to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am extremely happy and proud to participate in the Centenary celebrations of Ponmana semmel Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R and meet you all who have assembled here as an ocean. I consider this function as one to be registered in history.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal who has delivered the presidential address in this great function,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M. Thambidurai who has delivered a special address,

Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K. Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B. Udhaya Kumar, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Chief Government whip Thiru. S. Rajendran, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan who delivered the welcome address, Hon'ble Minister for Forests Thiru. Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education & Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru. K.A. Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise Thiru. P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Fisheries and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Courts & Prisons Thiru. C.Ve. Shanmugam, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare & Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Dr. V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru. K.C.Karuppanan, Hon'ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Thiru. R. Kamaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms & Textiles Thiru. O.S. Manian, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes Thiru. K.C.Veeramani, Hon'ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development Thiru. K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru.P. Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Labour Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru.M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Dr.M. Manikandan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi & Village Industries board Thiru. G. Baskaran, Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Thiru. Sevoor S. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Backward classes & Minorities Welfare Tmt. S. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. P. Balakrishna Reddy, Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative at New Delhi Thiru. N. Thalavai Sundaram, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Science Services Corporation Tmt. P. Valarmathi, Chairman Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, District Collector Thiru. K. Veera Raghava Rao I.A.S., who is to propose a vote of thanks, MPs and MLAs who are to give felicitation addresses, partymen who are the aerial roots of AIADMK, Government staff, newspaper and media friends, respectful elders, ladies, youths, students and beneficiaries of welfare assistance,

At the outset, I pay my respects to all of you.

Late Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. totally merged himself with people – he mingled with them, lived with them, worked for them, thought for them and gave them munificently - and lived as 'Makkal Thilakam' and 'King of Kings'; it is that MGR whom lakhs and lakhs of people cherish today, seating him in a golden throne in their hearts. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma praised him thus: The love and compassion he showed to people, and the eagerness and affection people showed him are wonders that world history has never comprehended'. I consider it my great

good fortune obtained through the blessings of Hon'ble Amma to inaugurate Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.'s Centenary function in this historic Madurai City. It is highly fitting to commence Puratchi Thalaivar's Centenary function from Madurai. Though Makkal Thilakam MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Hon'ble Amma have many connections with Madurai, I wish to recall a few important incidents. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR was born on 17.01.1917 at Kandy in Sri Lanka as the fifth child to the couple Gopala Menon and Sathyabhama. MGR started his primary education at Kumbakonam but he had to discontinue his education due to the family's poverty. He joined the Madurai Original Boys' drama company at the age of seven. Thus started his connection with Madurai. That was why he starred in pictures like Madurai Veeran and Madurayai Meetta Sundara Pandian.

On February 12, 1985, MGR returned from America, a re-birth so to say. He did not return as any other ordinary man. As Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu he stepped on the soil of Tamil Nadu after winning the Assembly from the Andipatti constituency in Madurai District from his sick bed in the USA. Hence, Madurai District was instrumental in MGR taking a reincarnation in politics. He directed the holding of a conference of MGR Manram in this very Madurai City on July 14 and 15, 1986. Only in that conference, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had the opportunity to present a six-foot silver sceptre to Puratchi Thalaivar on behalf of the Party Headquarters. When Puratchi Thalaivar MGR returned the sceptre in the same dais to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma herself, the greetings raised by the assembled people reached the very heavens. In many meetings Amma had recalled this incident. That was the day MGR identified Amma as

his political heir and leader of the party after him. Thus Madurai carved a permanent niche in the history of the party, in the life of Puratchi Thalaivar and in the heart of Amma. This was a great turning point in the political life of Hon'ble Amma.

Puratchi Thalaivar MGR's last film is 'Maduraiyai Meetta Sundara Pandian'. Even while acting in this film, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR retrieved Tamil Nadu from the DMK and took a revolutionary 'Avatar' as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. What else can be cited as an example other than this mammoth crowd that he remains evergreen in the hearts of people even 30 years after his death.

This sea of humanity has removed the discontent that there is no sea in Madurai. The great discontent that torments partymen now is the absence of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma amidst us to see this spirited mammoth crowd. We, the sons of Amma have decided to celebrate the Centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar throughout Tamil Nadu, not a bit less than what Amma had planned for. Arrangements are being made throughout the State to celebrate the event, starting from Madurai. I wish to point out briefly to partymen the contribution of Puratchi Thalaivar in the history of the party.

Dravida Kazhagam was born in 1944; on September 19, 1949 Perarignar Anna floated the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. When Anna started the DMK, he did not want to capture power. He thought remaining in the opposition alone would help in getting the rights and facilities for the people from the rulers. But M.G.R. who left the Congress and joined the DMK in 1953 turned the DMK into a people's movement. That is why Perarignar Anna changed his decision and permitted the party to contest the election at the party conference held in Tiruchi in 1958.

The DMK started striking roots in the hearts of people because of the intellectual acumen of Anna and the loving approach of Puratchi Thalaivar. This resulted in the unseating of the Congress that ruled Tamil Nadu for 20 years from 1947 to 1967 and the enthronement of the Dravidian Movement in Government. Hence, Dr. MGR was one of the main roots for the DMK to flourish in Tamil Nadu. In two years of assuming office as Chief Minister, Anna passed away. Puratchi Thalaivar wanted to implement everything had Anna had dreamt of and had consulted with him. He voiced all his thoughts through his films. "If my orders are carried out/ the poor will not suffer here/ no sorrow till death/ they will not fall into the sea of tears". By sowing revolutionary songs like this in the hearts of people, he made revolutionary thoughts reach the people. He chose attractive titles for his films. All his 136 films created awareness by carrying newer and newer information that had a social bearing. Titles, dialogue and songs centred around the lower strata people. Hon'ble Amma used to say that Independent India's politics and the pattern of rule could be divided as 'Before MGR; After MGR' just like world history had been divided as BC and AD. Only after Puratchi Thalaivar MGR came to power, schemes were formulated keeping the ordinary man in the forefront.

In the 10 year rule, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR brought forth innumerable schemes for the people. Due to the constraint of time, I shall mention only a few here.

Nutritious meal scheme, marriage assistance to widows and destitute women, gold for 'thali', service centres for women, hostels for working women, mother-child care homes, free school uniforms, free footwear scheme for students, free tooth powder, free text books scheme, water through lorries during periods of drought, reduction in rice price, welfare schemes for the differently-abled, free ambulance scheme, monthly pension for the aged, and many other schemes. Brother Panruti Ramachandran spoke in the 158 member (Countries) United Nations about Dr. MGR's nutritious meal scheme. Leaders of different Countries were surprised and applauded. Before that, only the names of Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers found a place in the records of the UN. Through the nutritious meal scheme, Puratchi Thalaivar's name found a place in the UN records.

Puratchi Thalaivar successfully conducted the Fifth World Tamil Conference at Madurai to the admiration of the entire world. He announced then that a World Tamil Sangam would be set up in this Madurai which fostered the Tamil language through its three Tamil Sangams, for bringing the entire Tamil diaspora under one umbrella. By way of reviving the World Tamil Sangam, the dream scheme of Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Amma, I am proud to say, raised the World Tamil Sangam as a master complex at a cost of Rs.37.25 crore. Likewise, Puratchi Thalaivar directed the setting up of a Tamil University at Thanjai in 1981 and it is shining as a centre for Tamil and Tamil culture. Every partyman should know how many struggles Puratchi Thalaivar MGR underwent and made sacrifices to stabilize the All India Anna DMK. They should also know the difficulties and insults Puratchi Thalaivi bore to safeguard,

like a mother, the party after Puratchi Thalaivar. How many had dealt a blow to the 'Idaya Kani' of Perarignar Anna, both by words and deeds! How many struggles Puratchi Thalaivar waged both inside and outside the party?

When Puratchi Thalaivar was shot at in 1967, the whole Country became restless; women lamented; the youth were enraged . His opponents were happy and said meanly: 'MGR's chapter is closed; he will not survive'. All were surprised to hear the next day that the bullet embedded near his throat had been removed. What did their opponents say then? Even if he comes back, he cannot speak. How can he act, they said and showed their meanness. Even an inanimate bullet controlled its speed and went sideways, realizing that it had been aimed at a good man. It stayed in his neck, unwilling to leave him, Former Minister late Thiru. K. Kalimuthu said at a meeting. Puratchi Thalaivar was such a man as to accommodate in his neck a bullet that came to kill him.

MGR was thrown out of the party in 1972. His mistake – asking for accounts. The party leadership hissed and struck back – suspended him from the party. Later, it was announced that he had been expelled permanently. Then too, what did his opponents say? 'MGR's political life has ended today'. Newspapers and political parties researched whether MGR grew because of the party or the party grew because of MGR. But what was MGR's condition? MGR rose up high again like the Himalayas.

Puratchi Nadigar metamorphosed into Puratchi Thalaivar, started a party in the name of Anna and it grew just in 5 years in spite of severe repression. But in those 5 years, he faced innumerable struggles. The sacrifices he made in his personal life cast him as a saint in public life. His sacrifices alone did not lead him to this monumental growth; his qualities and charitable

disposition which he naturally inherited enthroned him in the hearts of the people as an excellent leader.

From literature, we know that the famed 'last seven philanthropists' donated munificently. But in the 20th Century Puratchi Thalaivar MGR used to give whatever money came to his hand from his pocket to those who came to him in distress. There are many eye-witnesses amidst us who can bear testimony to this. Many among us have seen the kitchen fire always burning in the Ramavaram house of Puratchi Thalaivar to feed those who came there at any point of time. It is no exaggeration to describe our Puratchi Thalaivar as the 8th Vallal. It is said there is no better gift than rain; but Dr. MGR surpassed even that rain.

Out of his hard-earned money, Puratchi Thalaivar started the Sathya studio in the name of his mother in the Adyar area. But who were the studio owners? The workers who worked under him. Can any one socialist or a true communist be cited either in Russia or in any other communist country who had conferred the ownership of a big institution, worth several lakh rupees then and now several crore rupees, created by him out of his personal earnings, to workers? Or is there any one like this among world leaders? If the answer is 'yes', I can firmly say, it is only one --- MGR.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "crore of people lived; crore passed away. Who lives in the hearts of the people?'. If this question is asked, the reply will be Puratchi Thalaivar MGR".

The party founder Puratchi Thalaivar's fame and that of Puratchi Thalaivi who protected the party after him will anchor the All India Anna DMK in Tamil Nadu for several more centuries. Hence every party worker has a duty to protect the party raised and fostered by Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma out of their hard labour.

In a letter to the cadre in 2011, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma movingly wrote that Puratchi Thalaivar MGR had entrusted this great Movement in her hands only to carry out all those services which he would have rendered to Tamil Society, had he lived for more years. That is why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ushered in a golden era in politics to convey the truth that no other Movement in this soil could defeat the All India Anna DMK.

The golden sayings of Puratchi Thalaivar, 'Our triumph will be spoken by Tomorrow's history', 'If this army goes down which army will win' should further be sharpened as 'This army alone will win whichever army faces it'. To that pre-eminent level, the party should be raised. This is my appeal.

Without waiting for people to approach you, you should go to the people as a servant. The three colours we should see in the party flag are Perarignar Anna's oratory, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR's charisma and Hon'ble Amma's hard work. On this pleasant occasion, you should take a pledge: You should retain the advice given by Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi in your mind as mantras and work for the party unitedly and with tolerance. This is my appeal. From today, curb your speech and get to work. I am reminded of a story when I say this.

"Which object is to be despised by all in the world" This was the question posed by Akbar one day to his court,where thousands of people had assembled. Minister Birbal said: 'Your Majesty, it is the tongue' "Tongue! How so", the surprised king asked. Birbal said: "It is the tongue that speaks all sorts of things; finds fault with others; gossips and provokes unnecessary quarrels".

30 films the latter had acted and said the gift he had given to Tamil Nadu was Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the 'Chakravarthi Thirumagal', 'Kalaiarasi' and 'Mahadevi'.

Remaining as 'Deiva Thaai', Hon'ble Amma is guiding us all. On this auspicious occasion, my good wishes that Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's fame remain for many more years.

All appreciated the reply as the correct answer, including Akbar.

Next day also the court assembled and King Akbar posed another question. "Minister! Which object is very good in the world?" Birbal said : 'It is the tongue'. People in the court, including Akbar were surprised. "Minister Birbal, only yesterday you said that it is the tongue that is the most despicable object in the world. You gave a good explanation also for that. Today, you are saying that the same tongue is the very good object in the world," Akbar said.

Birbal said: "When the tongue that speaks bad things starts speaking good things, we all praise and applaud it. Eschewing bad things that provoke anger and quarrel, if the tongue speaks with love, affection and in a friendly manner, how else can we describe that tongue than that it is the best object in the world?".

This is true. It is in our hands to speak good or bad things with the tongue. Hence, we should safeguard our tongue and practice speaking positive things alone.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister then described Puratchi Thalaivar MGR with the titles of some

Hon'ble Amma used to say: 'People are not for schemes; schemes are for people'. Schemes should bring about a change and development in people. Only such schemes were framed by Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi.

At this pleasant function, I am proud to inaugurate and lay the foundation for schemes costing totally Rs.60,34,97,000/-. They include inauguration of schemes worth Rs. 51,14,75,000/- including the buildings at the Madurai Rajaji Hospital costing Rs.40 crore (Madurai PWD) and schemes costing Rs.2.94 crore on behalf of Madurai Municipal Corporation, laying foundation for schemes costing Rs.2.77 crore (Madurai Corporation), HR & CE schemes costing Rs.1.93 crore and Aavin and Agriculture Department schemes costing Rs.1,52,92,000/-.

My hearty thanks to all the good hearts that are successfully conducting this huge function.

Today is ours! Tomorrow also is ours! 'Vaazhga Anna Naamam! 'Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh! 'Thodarga Maanbumigu Ammavin Aatchi!.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Water scheme for Madurai announced at MGR Centenary inaugural function

I am extremely happy to announce at the Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR Centenary function that a special water supply scheme will be implemented exclusively for Madurai City, the place Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal MGR loved most and as wished by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who desired that the City should not suffer from any water scarcity for the next 60 years. This scheme will be implemented by conveying water from the Periyar Dam Lower Camp area, about 156 kms away through giant pipes, benefiting some 17 lakh people.

This Madurai soil, where the world renowned Meenakshi Amman is seated, is known for its jasmine flowers. It is no exaggeration that people in this soil are known for their valour and intelligence. I am happy to point out that Madurai District people are loyal to the All India Anna DMK from the day it was started, to Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Amma's Government that is functioning in Amma's footsteps.

Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K. Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B.Udhaya Kumar, Madurai District MLAs and the general public requested that the bus stand at Mattudhavani in Madurai should be named after the Former Chief Minister, Bharata Ratna Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR, the hero of the Centenary Celebrations and people's leader. Hon'ble Amma's Government immediately accepts the request and names the Mattudhavani bus stand as Puratchi Thalaivar MGR bus stand on this very day (30.06.2017) when 40 years ago he assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I am happy and proud to make this announcement.

Kalam Sat students get Rs. 10 lakh pat from Chief Minister

Announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly
under Rule 110 on 24.06.2017 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker,

The 64 gram smallest satellite created by a six-member student team led by 18-year-old Thiru. Rifath Sharook of Pallapatti, Karur District won the first prize in the competition recently held by the American Space Agency NASA. From 57 Countries 80,000 models were submitted for the competition. This satellite bearing the name 'Kalam Sat' was launched by NASA into space on 22.06.2017. Designed on 3-D print technology, Kalam Sat is capable of analyzing radiation and heat in space.

'Spacekids', a forum functioning from Chennai encouraged and helped these students. I convey good wishes on behalf of this House, the Tamil Nadu Government and on my own behalf to these students –Rifath Sharook, Yagna Sai, Vinay Bharadwaj, Thanishq Dwivedi, Gopinath and Mohammed Abdul Kashif – particularly to the leader of the team Thiru. Rifath Sharook. I am happy to inform that an incentive of Rs.10 lakh will be given to this student team led by Thiru. Rifath Sharook which has brought honour to India, particularly to Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister marshals facts across manifold Departments to highlight works in Highways, PWD and Irrigation

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly on 28.06.2017 on the debate for demands for the Departments of Highways and Minor Ports, PWD, Buildings and Irrigation for the year 2017-2018 (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Speaker,

Excellent road infrastructure is necessary for improving competitiveness in the globalised economy and for enhancing production and efficiency. Good road connectivity encourages the development of urban and rural economy. Besides creation, development and maintenance of road and port infrastructure, the Department of Highways and Minor Ports is excellently implementing good quality road connectivity, wide roads, by-pass roads, bridges and over/under bridges at railway level crossings for achieving equitable socio-economic growth.

The Department of Highways is working with the lofty ideal of greening roads and ensuring safe travel and with the purpose of improving the socio-economic condition of all sections of people.

Only through good road infrastructure, industrial and service sectors can grow. Through this, the State's economic development can achieve a significant target. I am happy to inform that the Highways Department is doing well not only in giving road connections to transport terminals used by people daily, but also in maintaining the roads in an effective way so as to create good relations among States.

The Highways Department is maintaining in Tamil Nadu 12,095 km long State Highways, 11,628 km long premier District roads and 33,751 km long other roads. Of the National Highways' total length of 4,994 km in Tamil Nadu, 1,985 km roads are maintained by the State Government's National Highways unit and 3,009 km roads by the National Highways authority.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Important Works Undertaken in 2016-2017: After AIADMK's rule blossomed again under the effective leadership of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the highways took up for implementation road developments works under the guidance of Amma and (1) widened/development 2,920 km long roads at a cost of Rs.2,920 crore (2) renewed 2,866 km long roads at a cost of Rs.805 crore (3) completed construction of 126 bridges/ culverts and high rise fly overs for ensuring safe traffic.

Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP): Though time rolls on, the revolutionary programmes Hon'ble Amma gave are etching achievements till date. The comprehensive road infrastructure development programme was introduced in 2004-2005 out of her serious efforts. Under this programme, infrastructure development works like widening/developing roads, construction of bridges/culverts, road safety works laying by-pass roads are taken up.

In the last six years, Rs.17,461 crore have been sanctioned and works have been taken up.

Hon'ble Amma appointed me as Highways Minister in 2011. At that time, Hon'ble Amma announced a policy decision that all State Highways would be widened as two-way traffic roads and District premier roads widened with bed level causeways. As per this policy, I am proud to say, steps were taken and 98 per cent of the works have been completed. This Government of achievements, functioning on the path shown by Hon'ble Amma , I am happy to say, will achieve the target of 100 per cent in this financial year.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

I am to happy to share information on some of the important bridge works that have been carried out in different Districts through the Highways Department. (1) High rise bridge across Coleroon river in Tiruchi District – Rs.83 crore (2) Bridge across Palar on the East Coast Road – Rs.85 crore (3) Bridge near Textool, Coimbatore – Rs.23 crore (4) High rise bridge, Mettur – Rs.23 crore (5) Bridge across Tamiraparani river, Nazareth-Eral – Rs.19 crore (6) Madurai Vaigai bridge – Rs.10 crore (7) Bridge across Amaravathy river, Pasupathypalayam, Karur – Rs.15 crore (8) Bridge across Palar, Orakattupettai, Kancheepuram – Rs.27 crore.

A few of the important works being carried out in different Districts:

A flyover at the junction of Vandalur-Kelambakkam road junction at a cost of Rs.60 crore;

- An over bridge at Thiruvakavundanur junction, Salem at a cost of Rs.26.77 crore;
- The second part of the first stage of laying by-pass road for the Rasipuram town at a cost of Rs.20 crore;
- Widening and upgrading of the road to Megamalai, Theni District at a cost of Rs.80.67 crore;
- Re-laying of the Periyakulam – Adukkam-Kodaikkanal road at a cost of Rs.69.70 crore;
- Land acquisition works for construction of an overbridge at the junction of Goripalayam in Madurai City at a cost of Rs.164.28 crore;

- Land acquisition works for construction of a flyover from Madurai Periyar bus stand to Sethupathy High School-Meenakshi Mission Hospital junction;
- Land acquisition works for laying a west ring road to Coimbatore City at a cost of Rs.320 crore;
- Land acquisition works for road widening/ upgrading in Pollachi City at a cost of Rs.33.57 crore;
- A four-lane flyover in Coimbatore City from Aatthu palam to Oppanakara street via Ukkadam for a length of 1.685 km at a cost of Rs.121.82 crore. Bridges are constructed in Panchayat roads also with NABARD financial assistance for encouraging the livelihood of rural people.

Road Safety Works:

You all know that in a developed economy, the number of own vehicle riders has increased many-fold. Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking vigorous action to stop accidents due to traffic congestion and to ensure travellers' safety Highways Department plays a big role in this.

Accidents have largely been reduced by taking several steps like widening the roads, straightening serpentine roads, installation of caution boards and traffic signals and setting up median in the middle of roads. In the last 3 years from 2014-15, works costing Rs.1,059.94 crore have undertaken. This has brought down the number of fatalities in accidents to 91 per one lakh vehicles in 2013 from 106 in 2012. This came down further to 81 in 2014 and to 78 in 2016. I wish to register that road accident and fatality have come down greatly as Hon'ble Amma had allotted necessary funds for road safety works were undertaken.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

By-pass Roads:

By-pass roads greatly help comfortable and fast journey. By-pass road journey cannot be overlooked in the present day context of growing towns, increasing industries and exploding

vehicle population. Hence, this Government working with the blessings of Hon'ble Amma, is paying special attention in laying by-pass roads, ring roads and radial roads.

In Municipal Corporations, Municipalities ad Town Panchayats, 92 by-pass roads were taken up and 30 have been completed and declared open for traffic. Work in 12 by-pass roads is going on. Land acquisition work is afoot for 36 by-pass roads. Detailed project report is being prepared for 14 by-pass roads.

Railway Over-bride/Under-bridge :

Time is more precious nowadays. We cannot afford to waste it. Hon'ble Amma's Government is giving importance to the construction of more over bridge/under bridge jointly with the railways on the basis of sharing the cost, at level crossings in congested roads to ensure free flow of traffic. Compared to other Southern States, more number of overbridges/ under bridges have been completed in Tamil Nadu. This has been confirmed by the Southern Railway.

Of the 352 level crossings in Tamil Nadu, in 128, the ratio between train and vehicles (TVU) is more than one lakh. Construction of over bridges in 72 of them are at various stages. For the completion of 30 railway bridges in the current year, works have been activated at a faster pace. In the remaining 56 crossings, bridge works will be taken up in stages at an estimated cost of about Rs.3,360 crore.

New works in the extended areas of Chennai Corporation :

As Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Amma had announced that works would be undertaken in the extended boundaries of Chennai Corporation in stages at a cost of Rs.1,033 crore. Thirty-six of these works costing Rs.400 crore will be taken up and completed before the end of this year in two stages.

Chennai Metropolitan Development Programme (CMDP):

Highways Department is doing an excellent job in developing road and bridge infrastructure

facilities in the Chennai Metropolitan areas. I wish to mention a few of the works completed: 1.Flyover near Anna Memorial Arch; 2. High-rise flyover at Thirumangalam; 3. Flyover at Moolakadai junction; 4. Flyover at Vadapalani junction; 5. Road bridge across Adyar river; 6. Road bridge at Ennore bar mouth; 7. Railway overbridge at Vyasarpadi and 8. Flyover at Porur road junction.

I am happy to inform that the railway over bridge at Tiruvottiyur Mattu Manthai will be declared open in one or two weeks.

Apart from these, work is expedited in bridge works in places like Keelkattalai, Pallavaram, Velachery, Medavakkam and Kolathur.

Chennai Outer Ring Road – Phase II:

The 30.50 km six lane Chennai outer ring road from Nemilichery (NH 205) to Minjur via Padianallur (NH 5), being laid at a cost of Rs.1,075 crore will be thrown open for public use by this year end.

Tamil Nadu Road Development Programme – II:

With World Bank Aid, 427 km long road works (two-lane carriage way with paved/hard shoulders) are being implemented through engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract. Road maintenance works to a length of 597 km have been undertaken through out-sourcing, performance based road construction (OPRC) method. Tender is to be floated shortly for upgradation of 146 km long four-lane road through Public Private Participation (PPP).

Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC):

The Government is keen to employ new techniques to maintain the roads in a good condition. In that way, the scheme to develop the roads through the contractor and permitting him to maintain them for 5 years, is implemented successfully in Pollachi, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvallur divisions. This year, it is to be implemented in Virudhunagar division.

National Highways :

For developing the 1,985 km long National Highways under the care of the State Government, financial resources are raised from the Central Government's many schemes like that for core road network, inter-State road connectivity, Economic Importance Scheme (EI) and central roads scheme and works are undertaken.

Allocation of funds for road projects was stressed with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Central Minister for Surface Transport in person and development works were taken up for execution at a cost of Rs.650 crore with funds made available from the Central Road Fund for Renovation (RCRF).

The Central Government has approved in principle to upgrade 19 State Highways, running to a length of 901.80 km.

Marine Board :

Twenty-four minor ports including 7 Government minor ports have been notified in the 1,076 long coastal area of Tamil Nadu. In 2016-2017, they earned a revenue of

Rs.39 crore, handling 11,69,916 tonnes of goods, 2,39,646 containers and miscellaneous goods including 283 vehicles.

The State Government is keen to create new ports to meet the needs of industrial entrepreneurs and private investors in respect of the export/import of their goods. Works on developing minor ports by getting funds from the Central Government's Sagar Mala coastal shipping scheme are on.

Coal for the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is ferried from Paradeep and Haldia ports through the Poompuhar Shipping Corporation's ships and private ships hired on rent. This year, 151 lakh tonnes of coal have been moved.

PWD - Buildings

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

I submit my reply in this House on the debate on PWD – Buildings Department.

I am happy to inform that a Centenary Arch will be erected in Chennai in connection with the centenary celebrations of the former Chief Minister Bharata Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R, variously praised by people as Pon Mana Chemmal, Makkal ThilaGam and Vallal Peruman.

To erect a magnificent memorial mandapam for the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, ranked as one of the world leaders, at her resting place, sketches have been invited from artists/institutions at the Global Level. I wish to inform this House that the best sketch will be selected by a team of experts and the memorial mandapam will be set up to the appreciation of all.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Through the PWD-Building section, sanction has been accorded, taking into account the ever increasing number of working women, for

construction of safe quarters for them at cheap rent at 19 places throughout the State at a cost of Rs.19.19 crore through the Department of Social Welfare and works have been completed at four places;

887 works, taken up for improving the infrastructure facilities in the school education sector, with financial assistance from NABARD, have been completed at a cost of Rs.1,017.79 crore; 249 works are under execution and building works costing Rs. 240 crore are about to commence in 149 upgraded Government High Schools. Infrastructure facilities include additional class rooms, laboratory, drinking water supply, toilet facilities and construction of compound walls.

Health Department Buildings :

In accordance with the adage 'Health is Wealth', Hon'ble Late Chief Minister Amma ordered the opening of new Medical Colleges and Hospitals in every District. As per that directive, construction of a new Medical College and hospital buildings, costing Rs.231.23 crore at Pudukkottai has been completed three months ahead of schedule and declared open for the use of people. With the approval of the Indian Medical Council, admission of students for the year 2017-2018 for 150 seats is about to commence.

To provide special medical treatment to patients in all the Government Hospitals in Tamil Nadu, sanction was accorded for 96 works for constructing medical buildings costing Rs.834.12 crore and 31 works have been completed; 32 works are under way and 33 about to commence.

Construction of 762 hostel buildings for the Backward, Most Backward, De-notified and Minority Community students, costing Rs.456.30 crore was sanctioned and 713 works have been completed; 13 works are under way and 36 works are about to commence.

To help livestock, sanction was accorded for the construction of veterinary dispensaries at 113 places in Tamil Nadu and buildings for livestock disease investigation sections at 2 places, all at a cost of Rs.27.75 crore and works are about to commence.

Courts/Law College Buildings:

Construction of 59 court buildings and 61 judges' quarters at a cost of Rs. 521 crore was sanctioned; so far 20 court buildings and 31 judges' quarters have been completed; work is on in respect of 27 courts and 31 judges quarters; for the rest construction is to commence.

Construction of buildings is going on for a Government Law College at Pudupakkam Village in Kancheepuram District at a cost of Rs.57.18 crore and at Pattaraiperumbudur Village in Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.60.13 crore.

The work on setting up a modern integrated check post for the Transport Department at a cost of Rs.128.13 crore at Pethikuppam in Tiruvallur District has been completed.

Sanction has been accorded for the construction of buildings for integrated agriculture extension centres at 50 places at a cost of Rs.75 crore and works have been completed in 30 places; works are on in 20 places.

Revenue Department Buildings :

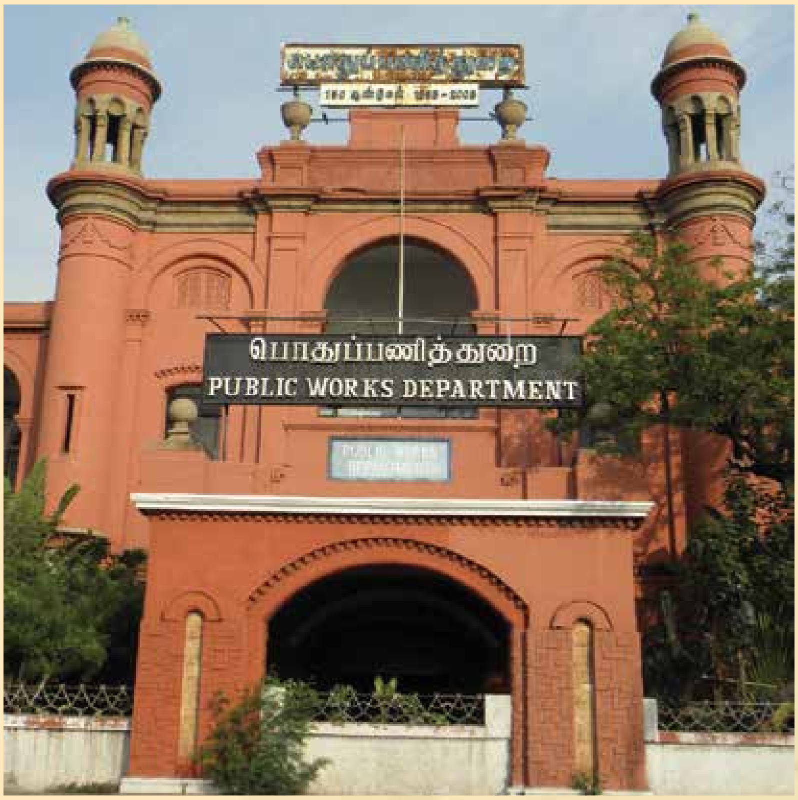
Hon'ble Amma approved construction of several new Collectorates and Taluk Offices for enhancing the efficiency of the Revenue Department, the backbone of the Government and the ladder to uplift the poor and the marginalized.

Additional office buildings for the Collectorates in Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari have been constructed at a cost of Rs.57.49 crore and declared open for use.

Of the 60 Taluk Offices to be constructed at a cost of Rs.140.10 crore, works have been completed in 16 and works are proceeding in 3; in 41, they are yet to commence.

Commercial Taxes and Registration Department:

The Commercial Tax Department continues to integrate tax administration and policies for giving the best service to the tax payer



and to effect economy in expenditure. The Registration Department, one of the Departments that has greater contact with the public, is playing an important role in fetching revenue to Government.

Office buildings for the integrated Commercial Tax Department are to be constructed at six places at a cost of Rs.93.62 crore; at 3 places the works are on and in the rest they are yet to commence.

Of the 25 places where the office buildings for the sub-registrar of the registration Department are to be constructed at a cost of Rs.14.49 crore, works have been completed in 17 places; at 6 places they are on and in 2 places yet to commence.

Amma's Government took a decision to set up an exclusive Divisional office for protecting and maintaining ancient historic buildings in Tamil Nadu without altering their uniqueness. A Divisional office with headquarters at Chennai and sub-divisional offices at Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai and Coimbatore cities were set up. These offices will take up the work of protecting and maintaining the ancient and historic buildings under the Departments of Archaeology, Hindu Religious and Endowment and Tourism.

PWD - IRRIGATION

Hon'ble Speaker,

PWD - Water Resources Department is implementing water resources development schemes.

Rain is essential for the livelihood of humans. But excessive rains mostly in coastal areas for short durations cause floods. As Tamil Nadu is mainly a monsoon dependent State, below normal rainfall creates drought conditions.

Last year, monsoon was 62 per cent deficient from the normal. The impact of the drought was greatly eliminated by taking up relief operations on a war footing and distributing the relief to agriculturists and other beneficiaries.

Hon'ble Amma's policy is 'ensuring timely irrigational facilities'; on that basis water management techniques continue to be implemented.

Hon'ble Amma took efforts available legally for establishing Tamil Nadu's rights to get its share of waters from the neighbouring States.

This Government continues those efforts with determination.

Mullai periyar Dam :

Raising the water storage level in Mullai periyar dam, in the first phase, up to 142 feet, is one of the victorious legal battles waged to get water for the livelihood of Tamil Nadu people from the neighbouring States.

To raise it further to 152 feet, strengthening of the Baby Dam through minor works as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court has been taken up. However, Kerala Government is not co-operating though requests have been made to that Government for taking up these works; and is preventing us from strengthening the dam. This was pointed out to the Central Government and a request was made to advise the Kerala Government suitably. As there was no response from the Central Government, an Execution Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court on 02.03.2017 for the implementation of its order. The case is due to come up for hearing in July.

Steps taken for the Constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee:

Among the victories achieved by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma after launching struggles in the interests of Tamil Nadu people, getting the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal published in the Central Government Gazette on 19.02.2013, is a milestone. Members of this House know this. The Tribunal's final verdict recommends the setting up of a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee. Through letters, the Central Government is urged to constitute immediately these bodies; Hon'ble Prime Minister was also met and the matter continues to be pressed.

An interim petition was filed in the Supreme Court for making Karnataka supply Tamil Nadu, the latter's due share of water in the 2016-2017 irrigation year. When the petition came up for hearing, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 20.09.2016, directed the Central Government to set up the Cauvery Management Board, as per the final verdict of the Tribunal, within 4 weeks. This order was again confirmed on 30.09.2016 and directed the basin states to appoint their members on the board before 01.10.2016.

The Central Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court on 03.10.2016 seeking changes in its orders on the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board. The petition came up for hearing on 04.10.2016 and the court passed an order deferring the setting up of the board.

The Supreme Court on 09.12.2016 allowed the appeals filed by the basin states as fit for hearing. The court heard the preliminary arguments on them on 07.02.2017. Again on 21.03.2017, the cases were heard and were adjourned to 11.07.2017. On that occasion, the setting up of Cauvery Management Board would again be stressed.

Hon'ble Speaker,

I wish to refer briefly to the water resources in Tamil Nadu and their irrigated area. Number of anaicuts – 127; irrigation anaicuts – 85; reservoirs useful for supply of drinking water

to Chennai Metropolitan City – 4; anaicuts maintained by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation Corporation - 38; the total capacity of irrigation anaicuts – 229. 485 tmc ft of water; reservoirs capacity useful for water supply to Chennai – 11.057 tmc ft of water; number of lakes with irrigational potential in Tamil Nadu – 39,202; lakes under water resources Department- 14,098; irrigation system - dependent lakes – 7,138; irrigation system non- dependent lakes – 6,938; total irrigation structures – 106; irrigated areas by the 106 irrigation structures – 35,67, 127 acres; irrigated areas by lakes not depended on irrigation system – 14,26,329 acres; total extent of irrigation – 49,93,456 acres; extent of irrigation in Cauvery basin in the State – 24,70,770 acres.

Hon'ble Speaker,

'Kudimaramathu' scheme is brought in as a permanent people's work in an ever-changing world, to improve water resources and soil fertility.

The Grand Anaicut, constructed by Karikal Chozhan across Cauvery river in Tamil Nadu is the forerunner for the irrigation structures in the country. The tail-end areas of irrigation structures were maintained by the farmers in the name of 'kudimarmathu'. The Hon'ble Amma Government is adopting the 'kudimaramathu' practice carried on by our forefathers, with farmers' participation for improving the water management and has allotted Rs.100 crore for 2016-2017; you all know the work is apace.

Agriculture associations or ayacutdars contribute 10 per cent of the cost of the work either as labour, or goods or as money.

Works undertaken under this scheme are maintenance of supply channels, canals, lakes, sluices and other water bodies, and strengthening/re-construction of sluices. Agriculture associations, irrigation sabhas, ayacutdars and committees inclusive of ayacutdars join with the PWD and take up the works.

The kudimaramathu scheme works were inaugurated in 30 Districts on 13.03.2017. In 2016-2017, 1,519 works costing Rs.100 crore were taken up for implementation and 884 works were completed; 633 in progress and 2 will be taken up shortly.

While an allotment of Rs.300 crore has been made for the year 2017-2018, administrative sanction has been given for 2,065 works, costing Rs.331.68 crore in 30 Districts. In the coming years, more allocations will be made with NABARD's financial assistance and kudimaramathu works will be taken up.

Soil fertility is decided by rain's bounty. It is an ancient practice that the bounty of rain should be protected and fertility of soil enhanced. Poets like Avvaiyar have sung about it. In accordance with those sentiments, I am happy to mention that kudimaramathu works have been revived and steps are taken to store water in waterbodies to their full capacity.

The silt in water bodies contain nutrients and they can be used as a natural fertilizer. By allowing farmers to remove these sediments as per their needs free of cost, the waterbodies can be restored to their original capacities. To achieve this, necessary amendments were made in the 1959 rules on granting concessions on minor minerals and permission granted for the removal, free of cost, of clay and silt from the bed of lakes, channels and waterbodies by people in the surrounding Villages.

The Departments of Water Resources, and Rural Development and Panchayat, maintain 42,649 water bodies. Of these 36,345 are found to have deposits of sediments. They have been notified in District gazettes and de-silting operations are taking place. So far, 4.41 million cubic feet of sediments have been removed, benefiting 86,355 farmers.

De-silting of Anaicuts and Waterbodies :

Most of the reservoirs in the State are very old. Soil erosion that naturally occurs in

catchment areas gets deposited in the reservoirs, reducing considerably their in-take of water. To restore them to their original capacity and to ensure timely supply of water for irrigation, the Water Resources Department has started the de-silting of reservoirs in the State in a phased manner.

Preparation of detailed project report and environmental impact evaluation report are in progress for de-silting, in the first phase, Vaigai, Pechiparai, Mettur, Amaravathy reservoirs and Thiruvaikunda anaicut.

As per the guidance of the National Green Tribunal, de-silting works were taken up at a cost of Rs.5.93crore to retrieve the full capacity of Srivaikuntam Anaicut. Expecting the final orders of the NGT, works have been suspended temporarily.

Steps are taken to get the Forest Department's permission for de-silting the Parappalaaru reservoir at a cost of Rs.19.50 crore for getting back its original capacity.

Acceding to the requests of farmers and the general public, de-silting of Veeranam lake in Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.40 crore has been taken up and is in progress.

Avinashi-Athikadavu Flood Canal Scheme:

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Avinashi-Athikadavu flood canal scheme is to divert the surplus flood water in the Bhavani river to dry areas in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode. It will be implemented as an irrigation, ground water re-charging and drinking water supply scheme. A detailed project report, envisaging an expenditure of Rs.3,523 crore was prepared and sent to the Central Water Commission for getting funds under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. As per their advice, the scheme has been changed into an alternative proposal for "pumping the surplus water of Bhavani river from the lower end of the Kalingarayan anaicut to benefit the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode" and a scheme has been prepared.

The scheme will benefit 31 lakes under the Department of Water Resources in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode, 40 panchayat union tanks and 630 water bodies besides surcharging the ground water.

In the financial year 2017-2018, Rs.250 crore has been allotted for this scheme. Detailed survey works have been undertaken.

Scheme to face climate change in Cauvery River Bar Mouth areas with loan from Asian Development Bank :

Nature is not same always. In the world revolves, climate also whirls and changes. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the incomparable Leader who had intelligently devised water management by implementing the rain water conservation scheme to minimize the impact of climate change.

The Climate Change Embracing Scheme has been taken up at an estimate of Rs.1,560 crore, with Asian Development Bank's loan, in the areas where Cauvery river drains into the sea. The Bank's loan component is Rs.1,092 crore; the State's share Rs.468 crore.

Under the scheme, re-structuring all the water regulators, constructing new ones and upgrading drainage and canals are taken up.

In the first phase, these works are under progress on an outlay of Rs.960.66 crore in Harichandra Nadhi, Adapparu, Vellaiyaru, Paandavai aaru, Valavanaaru drainage canal, Vedaranyam canal and Uppanaru drainage canal under the Lower Vennaru system. The phase also covers works of restoring 13 water pumping schemes, scheme management and those connected with environment.

Scheme to modernise Cauvery Sub-basin Structures :

The Central Government has given approval to a detailed project report for extending, renovating and modernizing the Grand Anaicut canal at an estimate of Rs.2,298.75 crore. It is to be implemented under the Rs.11,420 crore scheme for upgradation and renovation of irrigation structures in Cauvery sub-basin. Besides, a detailed project report for development and renovation of Kattalai High Level Canal irrigation system at a cost of Rs.270 crore, is under examination. A revised proposal, seeking Rs.14,500 crore for the scheme is being examined by the Central Government.

Irrigated Agriculture Development Scheme (IAMWARM):

In continuation of the successfully implemented Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management scheme, the Water Resources Department, in co-ordination with 7 other Departments will implement an irrigated agriculture development scheme at an estimate of Rs.3,042 crore over a period of 7 years from 2017. The scheme will benefit 5.43 lakh hectares in the left out 66 sub-basins in 29 Districts.

Under this scheme, restoration of 4,778 lakes, 477 anaicuts, construction of check dams and setting up water re-charging wells in water spread areas in lakes will be taken up by the Water Resources Department at a cost of Rs.2,195 crore.

Administrative sanction has been accorded for restoration works in 59 flood affected lakes at a cost of Rs.43.63 crore under the above said fund.

Creating New Irrigation Structures

1. **Creating new reservoirs:** Works, to create a new reservoir across Marudhaiyaru near Kottarai Village, Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District at a cost of Rs.124.20 crore to provide irrigation to 4,194 acre dry lands and another at Kannankottai Village, Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.330 crore by linking Hissa Rajaneri and Thervaikandigai lakes for providing drinking water to Chennai City and to ensure irrigation facilities to 740 acres of land, have been taken up. As there is a case in the court in respect of giving compensation to land owners, steps are being taken to find a solution through direct talks and expedite the works. State funds will be utilized for these works.

2. **Setting up barrage:** A detailed project report has been prepared for setting up 2 new barrages across Coleroon river in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts at Adhanur and

Kumaramangalam Villages. Implementation of this scheme will ensure irrigation facility to 26,800 acres and another 4,425 acres will benefit through re-charging of ground water. It is proposed to raise funds for the scheme either from the Green Climate Fund or under the Long Term Irrigation Fund with financial assistance from NABARD Bank.

3. **Setting up new canals and supply channels:** Under the State fund, works are in progress to dig 4 new canals and supply channels in the Districts of Ramanathapuram, Salem and Tirunelveli at a cost of Rs.25.48 crore. Implementation of this scheme will benefit 4,385 acres of irrigation lands.

Mitigation of floods: Works are in progress in respect of widening Adyar river and its branch canals in Kancheepuram District as well as de-silting and other improvement works, taken up at a cost of Rs.23.50 crore; renovation and restoration works on the flood affected Vegavathy river within Kancheepuram City limits are also in progress.

Permanent flood prevention works will shortly be taken up in Cuddalore District at an estimate of Rs.140.01 crore. They include increasing the water carrying capacity of Velapakkam canal in the Taluks of Cuddalore and Panruti, Gadilam river from Vichoor Village to Devanampattinam Village, Odais in Vichoor and Periya Kattupalayam in Panruti Taluk, Pasimuthan odai, Thillai Amman oldai,Omakulam drainage canal in Chidambaram Taluk and Manavaikkal in Kattumannar Kovil and Chidambaram Taluks.

Coastal Safety works: Erecting 5 groynes at a cost of Rs.69.49 crore at Vembar, Veerapandiapattinam, Keezhavaipar, Periya Thazhai and Kallamozhi in Thoothukudi District is in progress.

Renovation of retaining wall at a cost of Rs.3 crore at Raviputhanthurai Village, Vilavancode Taluk, Kanniyakumari District is in progress. Erecting a groyne at Mandaikadu Puthur, Kalkulam Taluk at a cost of Rs.7.82 crore will commence.

Erecting 10 groynes from Ernavurkuppam to Ennore in Madhavaram Taluk, Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.31.82 crore is in progress.

Schemes to link inland rivers in the State: Schemes, for linking of rivers, besides fulfilling the irrigation and drinking water needs in dry regions, also turn out to be schemes for diversion of surplus flood waters for averting flood damages.

Linking Tamiraparani-Karumeniyaru-Nambiyaru rivers: The scheme proposes to link Tamiraparani river with Karumeniyaru and Nambiyaaru by setting up a new flood water canal from the Kannadian canal milestone 6.50 KM near Vellankuzhi Village to M.L.Theri near Thisayanvilai at a cost of Rs.369 crore and diverting 2,765 million cubic ft of surplus flood water of Tamiraparani river. Implementation of the scheme will provide irrigation to 56,908.8 acres of land.

The Central Government has permitted an investment of Rs.872.45 crore for this scheme. Of this revised administrative sanction has been given for a total of Rs.543.32 crore on 13.04.2017. The split up is Rs.310.62 crore for works in Stage 1 and Stage 2 and Rs.232.70 crore for land acquisition works from Stage 1 to Stage 4.

As per the revised land need schedule, a total of 3,266.58 acres are needed for the project. So far, 302.99 acres have been acquired.

Cauvery-Agniyaaru-SouthVellaru-Manimuthaaru-Vaigai-Gundaaru link canal scheme: This scheme is one of the linkages suggested in the feasibility report prepared by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) on linking peninsular rivers. In the first phase, construction of a new barrage across Cauvery river near Maayanur has been completed. In the second phase it is proposed to construct a new canal from the western side of the barrage and divert Cauvery river's flood waters to Agniyaaru, South Vellaaru, Manimuthaaru, Vaigai and Gundaaru.

At present, the scheme is viewed as an irrigation scheme and is proposed to be implemented in several stages. For the first stage, a proposal is under consideration for digging a link canal from Cauvery (Kattalai Barrage) to South Vellaaru at an estimate of Rs.7,840.87 crore.

Linking of Pennaiyaaru (Sathanur Dam) and Cheyyaru: This scheme proposes to lay a new canal from the full storage level of Sathanur Dam to a length of 23.55 km. It will be linked to Cheyyaru on the western side of Alathur anaicut and 5.87 tmc ft. of water will be diverted into it. Further it will be linked with Thurinjal river and the ayacuts of Nandan canal will benefit. By diverting a part of the surplus water of Pennaiyaru through this scheme, 46,069 acres of irrigation lands in Tiruvannamalai, Thandarampet, Chengam, Polur and Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai District and Ginjee in Villupuram District will benefit.

Pennasiyaru (Nedunkal anaicut) – Palar Linkage: This scheme envisages diversion of 3.5 tmc ft. of flood water received in Pennaiyaru during the months of October, November and December to Palar. The detailed project report for this, is under the consideration of the National Water Development Agency. By executing this scheme, 23,465 acres of land will be assured of irrigation through open wells and deep bore wells in the Vaniyambadi Taluk

of Vellore District. The environment impact evaluation report is to be prepared by the consultant appointed for the purpose.

Hon'ble Speaker,

With a visionary outlook, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma conceived and worked for the development of agricultural lands. A few to be cited are listing of the efforts to be taken during times of climate change, the Avinasi-Athikadavu flood water canal scheme to utilize the Bhavani river surplus water, irrigation agriculture development scheme and locating new lakes. Hon'ble Amma's acumen and work are immeasurable.

As per the guidance given by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, this Government also is doing its best for the development of irrigation and water management.

Providing irrigation facilities is one of the duties that Puranaanooru enjoins on the King. A King who does this will be adored by people on par with God. In one of his couplets, Tiruvalluvar also reiterates the same idea. Late Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma protected and developed soil fertility by maintaining and doing 'maraamathu' to countless anaicuts. To the blemishless mother who had dedicated herself to the people and served them, the breeze is holding out the royal insignia ('venchamaram'), there, on the sea shore.

Highways Department

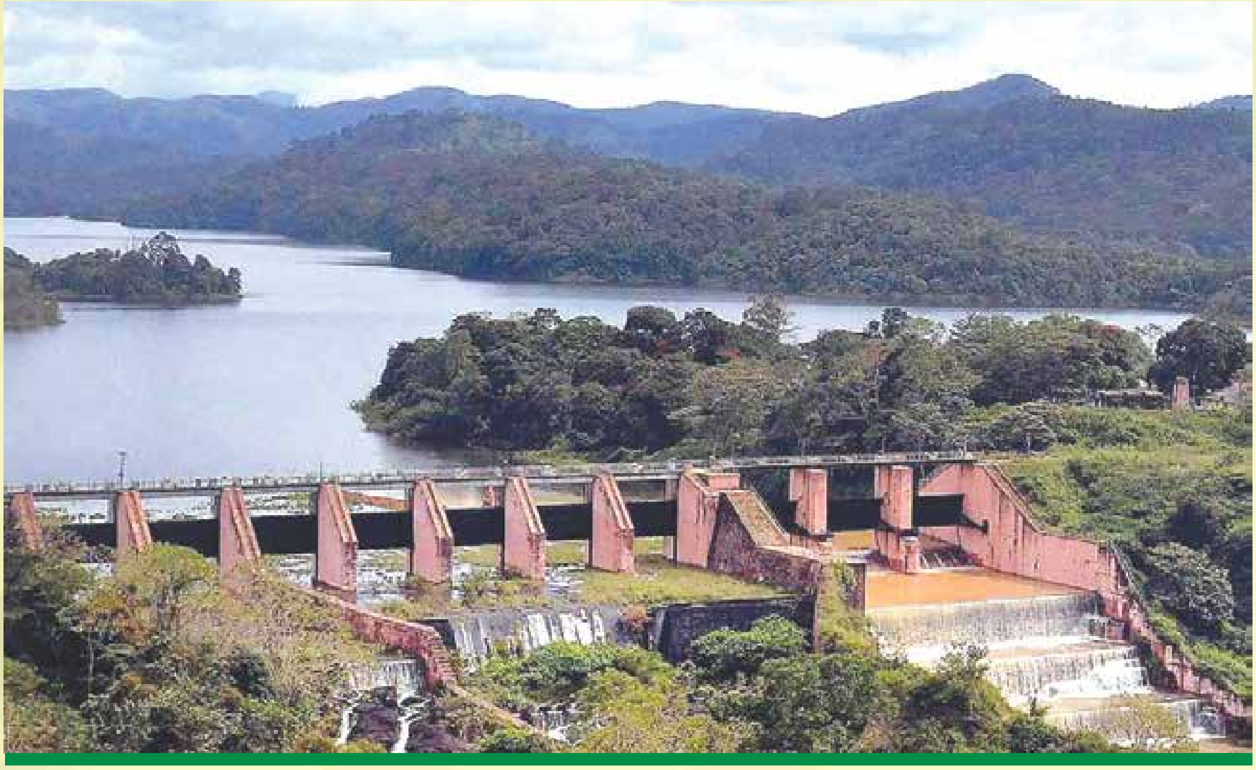
ANNOUNCEMENTS 2017- 2018

1. Under Railways scheme, 9 railway over bridges/under bridges will be constructed in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Vellore, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli and under state fund, 2 railway over bridge/under bridge in the Districts of Madurai and Coimbatore (total 11 bridges) will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.529.39 crore. A detailed project report for these works will be prepared in the current year at a cost of Rs.2.83 crore.

2. To reduce the traffic congestion in Erode City, a high rise 5.4 km long flyover will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.300 crore on the Erode-Perundurai-Kangeyam road from Kalingarayan Illam to Thindalmedu. Also, in Coimbatore District two by-pass roads will be laid at an estimate of Rs. 185 crore – one on the eastern side of Karamadai town and another to Annur town. Detailed project report for these works will be prepared in the current year.

3. Eight high-rise bridges across rivers will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.145.68 crore. These bridges are two across Vellaru and Gadilam rivers in Cuddalore District, one to replace a 60-year-old bridge across Kudamurutti river in Thanjavur District on the Ayyampettai-Ganapathy Agraharam road, one across Cauvery river connecting Pilikalpalayam in Namakkal District and Kodumudi in Erode District, another across Goundaaru river in Madurai District at Aalampatti, one across Gundaaru river at Thirumangalam in the same District and two across Maniyaaru and Malattaaru in Villupuram District. Detailed project report for these works will be prepared in the current year.

4. A flyover on Chennai Mount-Poonamallee road from Miot hospital to Mugaliwakkam



via., Ramapuram L & T, DLF office will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.214 crore. A detailed project report for this, will be prepared at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.

5. Eleven bridges, damaged in the 2015 December floods in the Districts of Kancheepuram, Vellore, Thanjavur, Salem and Ariyalur will be re-constructed as high-rise bridges at an estimate of Rs.130.43 crore. Detailed project report for these works will be prepared in the current year.

6. To reduce traffic congestion in Chennai, flyovers will be constructed at 4 junctions – Kundrathur, Madipakkam, Maadambakkam and Korattur – and a high rise flyover from Vadapalani to Ashok Pillar at a cost of Rs.380 crore. The detailed report for this will be prepared at a cost of Rs.2.05 crore this year.

7. Land acquisition for laying by-pass roads to Pollachi, Gobichettypalayam, Thuraiyur (Phase II) and Tiruvallur towns will be undertaken in the current year at an estimate of Rs.187 crore.

8. Land acquisition will be undertaken in the current year at a cost of Rs.4 crore to lay an alternative road from Pollachi to Coimbatore Metropolitan City via., Chettipalayam.

9. Land acquisition works will be taken up in the current year at an estimate of Rs.7 crore to widen the roads into multi-lane roads for connecting Arumanur on National Highway on the northern side of Madurai City and Nagari on NH 7.

10. The 2.63 km long Tambaram East by-pass road will be constructed from Raja Keezhpakkam where the Maraimalai Adigal Bridge-Irumbuliyur road branches

off to Perungalathur via Agaram South road at an estimated cost of Rs.30 crore.

11. The 4-lane Oragadam- Wallajabad road will be widened and developed into a six lane road at a cost of Rs.185 crore.

12. The causeway across Varaha Nadhi at 7/2 KM on Ginjee-Vadapalai road will be replaced by a high rise bridge at a cost of Rs.6 crore.

13. One hundred and fifty-two river bridges on Government and Panchayat Union roads will be constructed at a cost of Rs.400 crore with NABARD Bank credit.

14. A highly damaged bridge on the Tiruvanmiyur - Mamallapuram - Marakkanam – Puducherry road at Elayanarkuppam, Kancheepuram District will be replaced by a four-lane high-rise bridge at a cost of Rs.24 crore.

15. To reduce traffic congestion in Erode City, the 8.5 km long link road from Thindal junction on the Erode-Perundurai-Kangeyam road to Kanirowtherkulam on Ooty-Kothagiri-Satthi – Erode road via Villarampatti will be upgraded into a multi-lane road at a cost of Rs.17.5 crore.

PWD

ANNOUNCEMENTS 2017-2018.

1. To re-charge ground water, convey water from rivers to lakes, it is planned to construct new check dams, underground retaining walls and anaicuts at an estimate of Rs.1,000 crore over a period of 3 years. In the current year, check dams and underground retaining walls will be constructed at 75 places and anaicuts at 10 places, all at a cost of Rs.350 crore.

2. To prevent incursion of sea water, to prevent irrigation lands turning salty, a tail-end regulator will be set up at a cost of Rs.10 crore in the Kittiyanai Uppanaaru, Pudupattinam Village, Sirkali Taluk, Nagapattinam District.

3. To improve the capacity of irrigation canals restoration works will be taken up in Mettur Eastern Bank canal in the Taluks of Edappadi and Sankagiri in Salem District at a cost of Rs.49 crore, in Udumalpettai Main canal in Udumalpettai Taluk, Tiruppur District and in its left out branch canals (Rs. 5 crore) and in Vadavar Extension canal, Mannargudi Taluk, Thiruvarur District (Rs.10 crore).

4. Restoration of the Thoonakadavu dam's premier canal, Palakad (Kerala State), electrification of water regulator and construction of boundary wall at Sarkarpathi cave regions will be taken up at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore.

5. Setting up a new tank across a jungle stream in Kanakkampalayam Village, Gobichettypalayam Taluk, Erode District will be taken up at a cost of Rs.65.53 crore; a percolation pond across Kannimaar Odai, Komberipatti Village, Mammaniyur sub-division, Vedasandur Taluk, will be taken up at an estimate of Rs.90 lakh.

6. To improve the irrigation canals' capacity, following restoration/renovation works will be undertaken: Parthibanur regulator across Vaigai river, Paramakudi Taluk, Ramanathapuram District (Rs.3.70 crore); repairs to floodgates no. 8 and 9 of the Sathyamoorthy Sagar Anaicut (Poondi Reservoir scheme), Tiruvallur Taluk,

Tiruvallur District and doors of Poondi link canal (Rs.2.15 crore); in the Stanley reservoir, the door in the low level sluice gate no.5 of the Mettur dam and to 16 eye bridge sluice regulators (Rs.97.50 lakh); replacing the damaged wooden doors in the new Kattalai high level canal and Kattalai high level canal at Valayapatti Enangoor and Nachalur Villages, Kulithalai Taluk, Karur District, with iron doors (Rs.5.14 crore); damaged doors in the head regulators in Cauvery, Vennar and Kollidam sections of the Grand Anaicut in Thanjavur District (Rs.8.66 crore). A head sluice will be set up at the point the supply channel to Mangudi Kanmaai branches off Kiruthumal river, Thirupuvanam Taluk, Sivagangai District (Rs.27 lakh). Restoration of Gounda Nadhi from Soudharpatti anaicut to Thirali anaicut, Thirumangalam Taluk, Madurai District will be undertaken at an estimate of Rs.3 crore.

7. As for restoration of lakes, Velachery lake in Velachery Taluk, Chennai District will be taken up at a cost of Rs.25 crore; 8 lakes in Sarabanga Nadhi sub-basin, Omalur Taluk, Salem District and setting up of 7 ground water recharging wells (Rs.15 crore) will be taken up. Works will be taken up for de-silting the Vaduvur lake,Vaduvur Agraharam Village, Needamangalam Taluk, Tiruvarur District and for setting up a feeder canal for supplying the lake water to Chitheri lake in Moovar Kottai Village, Mannargudi Taluk (Rs.3.50 crore); restoration of Vandiyur kanmaai,, Madurai (North) Taluk, Madurai District (Rs.3.50 crore), 9 former zameen kanmaais in Paramakudi and Thiruvadaanai Taluks, Ramanathapuram District (Rs.2.19 crore) will be taken up.

8. To prevent sea erosion a groyne will be set up at Poothurai, at an estimate of Rs.15 crore and a retaining wall at Chinnathurai at an estimate of Rs.2.04 crore; both the places are in Vilavancode Taluk, Kanniyakumari District.

9. To benefit the students and rural people the Kuzhaai bridge in Kinathukadavu Taluk, Coimbatore District will be altered into a high rise bridge (Rs.27 lakh) and a bridge will be constructed across Ponnaar main canal, in Sripuranthan Village, Udayarpalayam Taluk, Ariyalur District at an estimate of Rs.75 lakh. The Kuzhaai bridge is located at 9.1. km on Vadachithoor branch canal, Periakalanthai-Vadachithur road.

10. For the benefit of the tourists and general public beautification of the Solayar Anaicut park in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh and the Thirumurthy dam park in Udumalaipettai Taluk, Tiruppur District with the setting up of wire fence around the dam's water spread area at a cost of Rs.95 lakh will be undertaken.

11. Survey works will be undertaken for linking Pennaiyaaru (Sathanur Dam) with Cheyyaru, Tiruvannamalai District at an estimate of Rs.35 lakh; for setting up a reservoir across Korayaaru, V.K.Puram Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District (Rs.25 lakh), for laying a new channel to supply the waters of Vaigai river to lakes in Andipatti region, Theni District (Rs.7 lakh), to construct a check dam across Kallaar,Chinnamutlu Village, Veppanthatti

Taluk, Perambalur District (Rs.10 lakh), diverting the surplus waters of Krishna tank, Zameen Oothukuli, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District to Periyakulam in Thevampadi Valasu Village (Rs.10 lakh), linking of the rivers Varadhamaanadhi, Shanmuganadhi, Amaravathy, Nallathangaal and Nanganji aaru in Dindigul District (Rs. 10 lakh) and for setting up regulators in tail end areas for preventing seepage of sea water, envisaged in the scheme for reducing the impact of climate change (Rs. 10 lakh). Preparation of the environment impact assessment report for linking the Pennaiyaaru (Nedungal anaicut) with Palar will be undertaken at an estimate of 70 lakh.

12. Following infrastructure works will be undertaken in the PWD: construction of a building for the Keeranur sub-divisional office of the Water Resources Department's south Vellaru division, Pudukkottai District at an estimate of Rs.40 lakh; computers and accessories costing Rs. 25 lakh will be supplied to the office of Chief Engineer (Plan Formulation), 3 circle offices and 12 divisional offices.

13. For better field inspection, six cars, to replace the damaged ones, will be given to the superintending engineers in the Water Resources Department and two jeeps to executive engineers in the place of the damaged jeeps. The new vehicles cost Rs.61 lakh.

14. The following works will be taken up: Two lifts with a carrying capacity of 13 persons in each will be fixed at a cost of Rs.66 lakh in the PWD office complex at Chepauk, Chennai for the benefit of the differently-abled; new buildings for the office of the chief engineer (building) at Madurai and an office building for the Madurai Zonal PWD office (Rs.5.84 crore); an additional building at the PWD complex at Thevaalai, Kanniyakumari District (Rs.90 lakh); 25 new jeeps in the place of scrapped ones for assistant executive engineers functioning in the sub-divisional offices of the PWD (Building) (Rs.1.53 crore); attending to repairs in the circle office of planning and designing and building (construction and maintenance), and in the office of the Directorate of Boilers located at the PWD complex, Chepauk, Chennai (Rs.2.10 crore); upgradation of infrastructure facilities at the office of the Principal Chief Engineer (Building), at Chepauk, Chennai (Rs.80 lakh) and construction of new buildings for the divisional office (construction and maintenance) of the PWD (Building) Vellore District and to its sub-divisional offices (Rs.1.27 crore).

High tech labs in Government schools to impart computer skills to students

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly
under Rule 110 on 19.06.2017 (*English Translation*)

School Education Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

If the marginalised sections in society are to achieve economic growth and rise up on par with others, they should come up in education. Economic growth will reach the lower strata only through the spread of good education all over the State. That is why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave great importance to education and to its growth.

In the last six years, Hon'ble Amma, implemented many path-breaking schemes in the educational field. They include giving 4 sets of school uniforms to students, text books, note books, school bag, accessories like geometry box, crayons, maps, a pair of footwear, bicycle, all at no cost, free bus pass and nutritious noon meal.

I am happy to make the following announcements in regard to the School Education Department:

1. Hi-tech labs will be set up in Government high and Higher Secondary Schools to impart computer skills to school students and to match the challenges posed by the growing technology field. Accordingly, 10 computers each will be given to 3,090 High Schools and 20 computers

each to 2,939 Higher Secondary Schools along with accessories. Government will incur an expense of Rs.437.78 crore on this head.

2. To impart computer based education to rural students studying in Government Primary and Middle Schools, a smart classroom will be set up, in the first phase, in each of the 3,000 Primary/ Middle Schools. At the rate of Rs. 2 lakh for each school, Rs. 60 crore will be spent on this programme.

3. For more than 100 years, the Directorate of School Education is functioning from the D.P.I. complex. This building is very old. Maintenance is difficult and expensive. Officials and workers from Districts visit the office in large numbers in connection with the schemes implemented by the Government. Additional space is needed for the various sections of the Directorate. Hence, a new building will be raised on one lakh sq. ft. at a cost of Rs.33 crore for the Directorate. I am happy to inform that this building will be named 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Centenary Building' to mark the centenary celebration of late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

4. The State Government feels that not only the students should be given quality education but they should be provided the best ambience for learning. I am happy to inform that infrastructure facilities will be provided to High and Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.39.01 crore. The facilities include additional class rooms, science laboratory, science equipments, art and handicraft rooms, computer rooms, library and toilet facilities.

Higher Education Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave the same level of importance to higher education as she did to school education. In the last 6 years , she had inaugurated 65 new colleges - 21 Government Arts and Science Colleges, 24 university constituent arts and science colleges, 16 polytechnics and 4 Government engineering colleges - and an Indian Information Technology Institute and a National Law School at Srirangam. This made Tamil Nadu a premier State in the country with a student enrollment rate of 44.3 in higher education against the national figure of 24.5.

I am happy to make the following announcements on behalf of the Higher Education Department in this House.

1. To improve the quality of education and the intelligence quotient of students, 961 new courses have been introduced in the Government Arts and Science Colleges in the last six years. This pushed up the student enrollment from 7,17,442 in 2011-2012 to 9,85,974 in 2016-2017. To further strengthen the growth rate, infrastructure facilities like additional class rooms, laboratories, libraries, toilet facilities, teachers' rest room, conference rooms, seminar halls and additional rooms will be provided in 43 Government Arts and Science Colleges in two years at a cost of Rs.210 crore. The buildings constructed in these 43 colleges will be named 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Centenary Buildings' to mark the celebration of the centenary of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. In the first phase Rs. 105 crore will be allotted and works undertaken in this year and the balance of Rs.105 crore will be allotted next year.

2. Government Arts and Science Colleges are functioning in all Districts in the State. To avert

long travel by students to get higher education and to help them get that education at low cost, 7 new Government Arts and Science Colleges and 3 new University Constituent Arts and Science Colleges will be opened in different Districts in 2017-2018 academic year. Government will incur an expense of Rs.100.31 crore.

3. In Government Arts and Science Colleges, students pay a very low fee for their education. It has become necessary to introduce new courses for students for job eligibility. It is proposed to introduce 268 new courses (60 for under graduate, 75 for post graduate and 133 for research students) with a view that students from backward regions, from economically backward sections and girl students in higher numbers should get higher education. To handle these courses, 660 assistant professor posts will be created. Government will incur an expenditure of Rs.40.38 crore annually.

Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

Our Youth is the country's wealth. Sports teaches the importance of co-ordinated work, gives maturity to act honestly, provides equipoise to treat victory and defeat alike and shapes one as a cultured person. That is why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave the same level of importance to sports as she did to education.

On behalf of this Government that functions on the path shown by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I am happy to make the following announcements in respect of the Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development.

1. As the Kancheepuram District sports complex is 42 years old, the damaged buildings and sports infrastructure facilities will be pulled down and a new sports complex will be created at the same place at a cost of Rs.15 crore. Facilities available in the new complex include spectators' gallery, a room for the District Sports and Youth Welfare Officer, room for administrative works, room for the coach, a room for sports personnel to change dress, toilets and a store room.

2. At the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University complex, Tirunelveli, a swimming pool complex of international standards with rooms for coaches will be set up at a cost of Rs. 5 crore. The complex will have a swimming pool for holding competitions, one other pool to practice swimming, a hall for exercises, rooms for changing the dress, toilets and an office.

3. The water sports canoeing and kayaking have become popular all over the world. They have become Olympic games. Chennai has become a centre for conducting international regatta, a massive boat race, competitions. Hence, a first grade sports centre for canoeing and kayaking sports will be set up at a cost of Rs.4.60 crore near the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University complex at Melakottaiyur in Kancheepuram District.

Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

The main goal of our Public Distribution System is to give food security to all sections of people in Tamil Nadu. Though we follow the National Food Security Act, the PDS implemented in Tamil Nadu is considered a special one. We

don't take into account the income criterion and implement the scheme uniformly to all without discrimination. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented only such revolutionary schemes in the interests of Tamil Nadu people.

For such an excellent Public Distribution System, our co-operative societies remain a tower of strength. These societies also play an important role in increasing agricultural production.

This Government following the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has formulated excellent schemes through the Department of Co-operation, Food and Consumer protection, as felt by Hon'ble Amma, and is implementing them. On that basis, I am happy to make the following announcements in the House:

1. As part of the programme of total computerization of the Public Distribution System (PDS), point of sale machines have been distributed to all fair price shops and sales of essential commodities are effected through them. The machine registers the commodities sought by the family card holders and their details are sent to the mobile phone registered by the card holder. At present, bills are not issued for the sale effected. To rectify this and to comply with the provisions of the National Food Security Act that essential commodities under PDS should be issued against bio-metric details of the card holder, finger-print reader and printing machine will be distributed to all the fair price shops at a cost of Rs.40 crore.

2. All the primary agriculture co-operative credit societies in Tamil Nadu will be computerized totally and core banking solution will be implemented in the central bank in 3 years at a cost of Rs.134.67 crore with assistance from NABARD bank. This is to improve the primary agriculture co-operative credit societies' services to farmers on par with commercial banks and to provide modern banking services to the rural public.

3. To implement the visionary idea that own buildings should be constructed to the co-operative institutions that function, though owning their own sites, from rental buildings, own buildings will be constructed to 114 co-operative institutions this year at a cost of Rs.23.10 crore. A commercial complex will be constructed to the Viraganoor Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Society in Madurai District at a cost of Rs.70 lakh. Tiruchi and Dharmapuri District Central Co-operative Banks will open 15 branches at an expense of Rs.2.25 crore to provide service to their customers near their places of residence. Twenty-seven co-operative institutions will be modernized at a cost of Rs.3.40 crore to improve their looks, to win the goodwill of their customers and to provide service on par with commercial banks.

4. The credit limit for petty trade, implemented by the Central co-operative banks and Urban co-operative banks will be increased from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/-. This is to prevent small traders from borrowing at high rates of interest from private individuals and for improving their livelihood.

5. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has five godowns in Chennai – at Anna Nagar, Nandanam, Thiruvanmiyur, Mint and Gopalapuram - to store and handle 86,068 tonnes of food articles and to move them for the Public Distribution System to a distance of 30 kms around Chennai city. Considering the need to further increase the storage capacity, a modern

12,000 tonnes capacity godown with facility for scientific mechanized handling of goods, will be constructed at Madhavaram region near Greater Chennai in the current financial year at a cost of Rs.25 crore.

6. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has own godowns with a total capacity of Rs. 9.82 lakh tonnes and acquired ones either from institutions or on rent with a capacity of Rs. 2.27 lakh tonnes, totally 288 godowns. These godowns don't meet the present needs. To increase the storage capacity, godowns will be constructed with sunlight roof tops, in the first phase, at 14 places in 9 Districts, with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes at a cost of Rs.50 crore.

7. For the 25 godown complexes under the control of the Civil Supplies Corporation, laying interior roads, construction of compound walls, provision of drinking water facility, rest room and other basic amenities for the workers there, will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.25 crore.

8. I am happy to inform that basic maintenance works will be taken up at 15 old godowns under the continuous use of the Civil Supplies Corporation for 40 years and welfare works for the loaders and drivers, working there, at a cost of Rs. 10 crore.

Environment and Forest Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

For the development of forestry and forest biosphere, I am happy to make the following announcements of the Department of Environment and Forest in this House:

1. Forest personnel are engaged in the great work of protecting the forest wealth, forest bio-diversity and the general public. If they die in harness due to forest animal attacks or while encountering forest criminals or in other gallant acts and in unexpected conditions, the compensation given to their heirs will be increased from the present Rs.4 lakh to Rs.10 lakh on par with police constables.

2. As per the report of Forest Survey of India, the green cover in Tamil Nadu has increased at a higher rate compared to other States. To further safeguard forestry, to promote that feeling in all, to carry to the present generation, particularly students, the Nature Dependent life style of hill tribes and to involve the local people totally in the Nature Tourism Project for increasing their job opportunities and for their socio-economic improvement, I am very happy to announce, that a Tamil Nadu Environmental Tourism Policy 2017 will be formulated.

3. The Bhavani river originates in the Nilgiris hills and drains into the Cauvery river. Coimbatore and Erode Districts, besides utilizing 90 per of this river water for irrigation, also mainly depend on it for their drinking water needs. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board takes the water sample from the river once a month for test, to monitor the impact of the effluents let out into the river by factories located on the banks of the river and the local bodies. For round-the-clock monitoring of the quality of the water in the Bhavani river, monitoring stations with on-line link will be set up at 2 places in the current financial year at a cost of Rs. 1 crore. These stations will have internet connections with the Head quarters and with the District offices concerned.

Fulfilling Amma's promise, Chief Minister declares open Pudukkottai Medical College

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

after inaugurating the Pudukkottai Medical College and declaring open college and hospital buildings on 09.06.2017 *(English Translation)*

My obeisance to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I am extremely happy to participate in this pleasant function and meet you all.

Amma is a great leader adored by people. With her blessings, this function is taking place here.

Dr. M. Thambidurai, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha,

Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Public Health and Family Welfare who has delivered the welcome address,

Thiru. P.Kumar, MP, Tiruchirappalli,

Thiru. N. Anwar Raja, MP, Ramanathapuram,

Thiru. P.R. Senthilnathan, MP, Sivaganagai,

Thiru. E.A. Rathnasabapathy, MLA, Aranthangi Constituency,

Thiru. B. Arumugam, MLA, Gandharvakottai Constituency,

Thiru. P.K. Vairamuthu, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Housing Board,

Thiru. S. Ganesh, District Collector who is to propose a vote of thanks,

Government staff, Newspaper and media friends, Respected Elders, Ladies,

At the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma always had great love and affection for the people of Pudukkottai.

Though Hon'ble Amma ruled from Fort St. George, her thoughts revolved around the development of Pudukkottai. To find the reason for that, one should turn the pages of Pudukkottai history.

Between the 9th and 19th centuries, Pudukkottai was ruled by Pandiyas, Cholas, Madurai Nayaks and Thondaman Kings. As of Delhi Red Fort, Pudukkottai was ruled by many kings at different points of time. That is why several memorials dating back to 5,000 years are found in this District. There are about 1,200 rock edicts. Only in Pudukkottai District cave temples are found in greater numbers.

Chithannavasal in this District is one of the 38 heritage centres declared by Tamil Nadu Government. Chithannavasal paintings alone is enough to proclaim this District's fame.

This District abounds in temples and beautiful tourist spots. A stone inscription explaining the grammar of Carnatic music is found only in this District. Viralimalai, referred by Arunagirinathar in his song, is in this District. The ancient Narthamalai Sivan Temple in the District is still drawing devotees from different countries.

Thiruperundurai Aavudayarkoil, connected with Manickavasagar's life history adds glory

to this District. By conducting the 'sandhana koodu' festival in the Samadhi of a Muslim saint during the car festival here, this District shines as an example in communal amity even now.

Great poets of Sangam Age like Ellaiyur Boothapandi, Aavur Moolankizhar and Madalan Madurai Kumaran were born in Pudukkottai District and brought glory to Tamil and Tamils.

Pudukkottai District is a honoured District that captured an important place in Tamil Nadu history and Tamil literature.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, a native of Pudukkottai found a place in history through her achievements. She was the first woman member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. I am extremely happy to declare open a new hospital in Pudukkottai city that has so many such laurels to its credit.

As per the announcement made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the Legislative Assembly under rule 110 on 25.08.2015 that a new Government Medical College would be opened in Pudukkottai, a new Medical College has been established at a cost of Rs.231.22 crore. I got the rare opportunity to inaugurate it today. In this Medical College, the 'Iyal koodam', lecture hall, library, conference hall and hostels for teachers and students have been constructed excellently. Besides, this 700-bed Government hospital has many facilities like out-patient ward, administrative block and modular kitchen. The Pudukkottai Medical College will be the 22nd Medical College in our State.

The lofty ideal of Amma's Government, functioning in the footsteps of late Hon'ble Amma, is to provide medical services to the poor and down trodden without any hassles. It is the policy of this Government to gradually start Government Medical Colleges in Districts that do not have them.

Accordingly, Government Medical Colleges have been started at four places – Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai, Chennai Omandurar Government Estates Complex and Coimbatore Employees State Insurance Hospital – with an intake of 100 students in each.

In the last six years, this Government has created an unprecedented 1,000 additional medical seats at graduate level. Also, post graduate seats in Government Medical Colleges have been increased by 403 seats. In this year alone, 305 seats have been added on.

Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has sanctioned Rs.1,489.33 crore for strengthening infrastructure facilities in Government high level hospitals. New Primary Health Centres numbering 212 have been created at a cost of Rs.175 crore. Exclusively for the health sector, a Medical Services Recruitment Board has been set up in the State, the first ever in the whole Country. So far 20,852 Personnel have been selected including 8,692 Doctors and 9,190 Nurses.

Financial assistance to pregnant women under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, has been increased from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/- Orders have been issued in this regard. So far, 39,59,000 pregnant women have benefited through this scheme, to the tune of Rs.3,687.95 crore

Sanitary napkins worth Rs.330.38 crore have been distributed in the last six years to rural adolescent girls, women prisoners and women patients, undergoing treatment in Government Mental Hospitals.

Hon'ble Amma introduced a new scheme – Amma Baby Kits – and so far 9.34 lakh mothers have received these kits. Likewise, Amma Arogya Thittam was started on 03.03.2016 and till May, 2017, tests have been conducted on 20,89,159 persons.

The Chief Minister Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme was started by Hon'ble Amma for providing modern medical facilities to the poor and the marginalized people and to make available health facilities to all. The scheme is working excellently. ID cards have been issued to 1.58 crore families; 751 hospitals including Government hospitals are providing treatment. The insurance cover has been increased from the present Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.2 lakh; so far treatment costing Rs.3,969 crore has been given to 19,04,000 persons.

To ascertain the health condition, a forerunner scheme – Amma Total Body Scan – was started in the Chennai General Hospital on 01.03.2016. Such a scheme was separately started for women – Amma Women Special Total Body Scan scheme. So far 15,997 persons have tested themselves through these schemes.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has the credit of making Tamil Nadu the premier State in health index. In 2001, she introduced to the whole of the Country the scheme of setting up integrated women hygiene complexes and thereby she sowed the seed for a rural health revolution.

In 2003, Amma inaugurated the great 'clean village movement' for creating a hygienic condition in the Country. I affectionately urge the people that we should keep our Villages and Towns clean for her ambition to succeed.

Introduction of 'NEET' examination is an infringement on State's rights. Students from rural areas, from the socially and economically backward sections cannot compete with urban students in the public examinations. Also, this examination is framed in a way to help the urban students. Unlike urban students, the rural students lack financial resources and the facility to join training centres - a great set back for them.

After the Tamil Nadu Government scrapped the common entrance examination for admission to Medical Colleges, students from the socially and economically backward sections have largely benefited. That is why, Tamil Nadu Government is consistently opposing common entrance examinations. I have requested the Prime Minister to exempt permanently Tamil Nadu from the 'NEET' examination. I humbly request the Hon'ble Prime Minister at this hour to speedily accord approval to the two draft legislations sent to the Central Government for the continuance of the present fair and transparent admission procedures for admission to medical and dental colleges. I have also stressed it in person to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice on 27.02.2017.

Reviving the ancient kings' 'kudimaramathu' scheme, I inaugurated the task of de-silting lakes and tanks in Kancheepuram District for the maintenance of water bodies. I said farmers can remove the de-silted sand free of cost for use in their lands. Today, 'kudimaramathu' works are executed throughout Tamil Nadu in an excellent way at a cost of Rs.400 crore with people and farmers' participation. As for Pudukkottai District, 192 works are being carried out at a cost of Rs.13.20 crore. I hope this will result in conservation of water during the coming monsoon season and meet the needs of the people. This will raise the ground water level benefiting the farmers.

Pudukkottai District came into being as a new District in 1974. But Pudukkottai Municipality came into existence even in 1912. The Municipality completed its centenary in 2012, during Hon'ble Amma's rule. To mark the event, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave Rs.50 crore with a mother's love for improving the basic infrastructure facilities of the Municipality.

At Kudimiyanmalai in Pudukkottai District, an agricultural college was started at a cost of Rs.50 crore and has been functioning for the last 4 years. One hundred and seventy-four students, boys and girls, are studying in that college.

Cauvery combined water supply works, costing Rs.617.02 crore and benefiting 3,517 hamlets are being carried out in two stages.

These works will be completed soon and Rs.10 lakh people of this District will benefit.

At Gandharvakottai, a Government polytechnic was started at a cost of Rs.5 crore in 2014 and today 650 students get its benefits. At Viralimalai, an ITI was started in 2015 and 192 students are benefited every year. Also, a Government Arts and Science College was started at a cost of Rs.2 crore at the Maruthakone hostel complex in Gandharvakottai Taluk and 800 students get the benefit. Likewise, a Government Arts and Science College was started at a cost of Rs.2 crore at Avudayarkoil and 800 students are studying there. Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many such schemes constantly for Pudukkottai District.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government's prime duty is to save the people from drought. The motto Amma gave us is: "Don't speak much; work more; let your thoughts be wholly on serving the people". As for as we are concerned, service to people alone is important. I am duty bound to pledge that we will work tirelessly and unitedly in the path shown by Amma. I wish to wind up my speech with a story.

A wolf and a fox lived as friends in a forest. Without getting any prey, they were wandering in the forest. They decided to join hands with a tiger that was living alone in frustration. They held talks with the tiger. They struck a deal with the tiger as follows: "All three of us should remain united as siblings; whatever food we get, we should share it". Elated over getting a powerful leader, the wolf and the fox howled and expressed their happiness.

One day, the tiger became suspicious of the wolf and the fox. It asked: "How will we share if a deer is hunted down". The wolf replied: "Tiger, Sir! You are our leader. So the deer's head belongs to you. This fox is a fast runner. So we can give all the four legs of the deer to the fox. What remains is the torso. That I will take". The tiger understood the cunningness of the wolf and gave a blow on its head. Unable to bear the pain, the wolf howled.

The tiger asked the fox: “How will you apportion?” The fox replied: “Let us make the lion, the king of the forest, as judge and arrive at our shares”.

All the three approached the lion. After listening to them, the lion agreed to apportion the hunt with the condition that it should also be given a share and asked them to bring the deer that they had hunted down. The three looked at each other and said: “The deer is yet to be hunted”.

So much strife and hullabaloo over a thing yet to be achieved?

Tiger! It is wrong on your part to have left your clan, listening to the cunning words of these animals. Go and join your clan immediately.

Even after the judge has given the verdict, it is inexplicable why the tiger withdraws and hesitates.

Hon’ble Amma had great administrative skills which the world admired. Compassion and strictness were her two eyes. She would whole-heartedly accept those who repented for their mistakes. As was Amma so are we, Amma’s children.

To establish Amma’s golden rule in Tamil Nadu permanently, I appeal that all of us, children of Amma, should join together and remain as supporters and pillars of the Government.

This is Amma’s Government; one to toil for the people, taking Amma’s motto ‘I am by the people; I am for the people’, as a Vedic diction. This Pudukkottai Medical College is the realization of a dream of mother who worked hard to turn Tamil Nadu into a disease-free State. I am extremely happy in declaring open this Medical College.

This is your Government, one that will care for your welfare.

There is a demand from people that Government should take over the sand quarries and run them. Acceding to their demand, the Government took over the quarries. The State Government is taking all steps to make available to people of Tamil Nadu sand for construction works easily and without any interruptions.

From the 28 sand quarries, presently functioning, about 5,000 loads of sand are being supplied to people daily through the Public Works Department. I wish to inform that more sand quarries will be opened in a few days and sand will be supplied to people. At the quarries, two units of sand is sold at Rs.1,050/-. Government will take severe action against those who sell sand at higher prices.

I take leave, thanking the Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr.C.Vijayabaskar who conducted this function in an admirable way and MPs and MLAs who have worked with him, brothers of the party, Government officials and officers of the Medical Department.

Nandri!! Vanakkam!! ■

Chief Minister presents status of schemes announced by Amma under Rule 110

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

in the Legislative Assembly *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made many announcements in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110. If many schemes are implemented in the State, it is due to these announcements made by her.

Fifty-one announcements were made by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during her Chiefministership in 2011-2012 of which schemes for 42 announcements have been implemented. Works are on for 9 announcements.

In 2012-2013, 87 announcements were made and Government orders have been issued for all of them. Schemes for 65 announcements have been implemented. Work is on for 22 schemes.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made 292 announcements in 2013-2014. GOs have been issued for 290. Orders have not been issued for 2 due to various reasons like case in Court. Implemented 219; work proceeding in 71.

Of the 236 announcements made in 2014-2015, Government orders have been

issued for 234. Orders on two, are pending due to various reasons. 136 schemes have been implemented. Works on 98 announcements are being carried out.

In 2015-2016 Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made 213 announcements under Rule 110 and GOs on 210 have been issued. Those on 3 are about to be issued. Works on 95 announcements have been completed and those on the remaining 115 are under execution.

Totally, 879 announcements were made between 2011 and 2016; GOs have been issued for 872; works on 557 have been completed; that on 315 are being carried out. Though Government orders have been issued for the remaining 7 announcements, there is no progress on account of them getting challenged in Courts or being examined by the Central Government.

One hundred and seventy-five announcements were made under Rule 110 in 2016-2017; GOs have been issued for 167; preliminary works are under way for 8; works on 20 announcements have been completed; and 147 works are getting executed.

Hence, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma totally made 1,054 announcements; GOs have been issued for 1,039; those for 15 schemes are about to be issued; 577 schemes have been completed and 482 works are being implemented.

If there are doubts on this statement, get it clarified with us. We will explain if no work takes place on any scheme. I have given a complete answer for all the schemes announced by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma under Rule 110. We can explain all the schemes implemented by the Government. Hence, I wish to inform through you (Speaker) that Amma's Government is speedily implementing all the announcements made by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had clearly announced the schemes that would be launched. On that basis, they are implemented. If you point out any scheme not getting implemented, Amma's Government will rectify it.

If the MLAs specifically point out the non-implementation of any scheme announced under Rule 110 in any part of their constituency, Amma's Government will attend and complete it.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can say anything but cannot achieve anything. This is a Government of achievements. We establish it with statistics. Hence, what I want to clearly say is that Amma's Government will implement the scheme announced under Rule 110, if its non-implementation is pointed out.

Government stand on cattle marketing rules after Courts' verdict

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

in the Legislative Assembly on 20.06.2017 on cattle marketing rules passed by the Central Government ***(English Translation)***

Hon'ble Speaker,

I wish to inform the Legislative Assembly that a ban on cow slaughter is in force in Tamil Nadu for the last 40 years. Now, the Central Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued on 23.05.2017 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 Cattle Marketing Rules 2017. These rules are applicable to cow, bull, buffalo, calves and camel.

Sections 22(b)(ii), 22(d)(ii) and 22(e) of the Rules ban sale of cattle for slaughter. Sec.22(d)(iv) prohibits re-sale of cattle for six months from the date of purchase. Sec.8 says no cattle fair can function at 25 km distance from the State boundaries. Sec.22(e)(iii) also prohibits the purchaser from slaughtering cattle for religious events.

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court gave interim stay for 4 weeks of the operation of the Rules on writ petitions (No. 10128/2017

and 10127/2017) filed on 23.05.2017. Thiru. Abdul Hakeem Kureshi of Hyderabad has moved the Supreme Court against these rules. The case is posted for hearing on 11.07.2017.

According to newspaper reports, Thiru. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Central Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had stated the Union Government was considering changes in the rules following representations from many quarters of the country that the rules would affect the farmers in many ways and that there was need for changes in the rules. Cases are pending in the Supreme Court and in the Madras High Court. I wish to inform the House that this Government would take an appropriate stand after the Courts verdict and that it would honour the request of the majority of people.

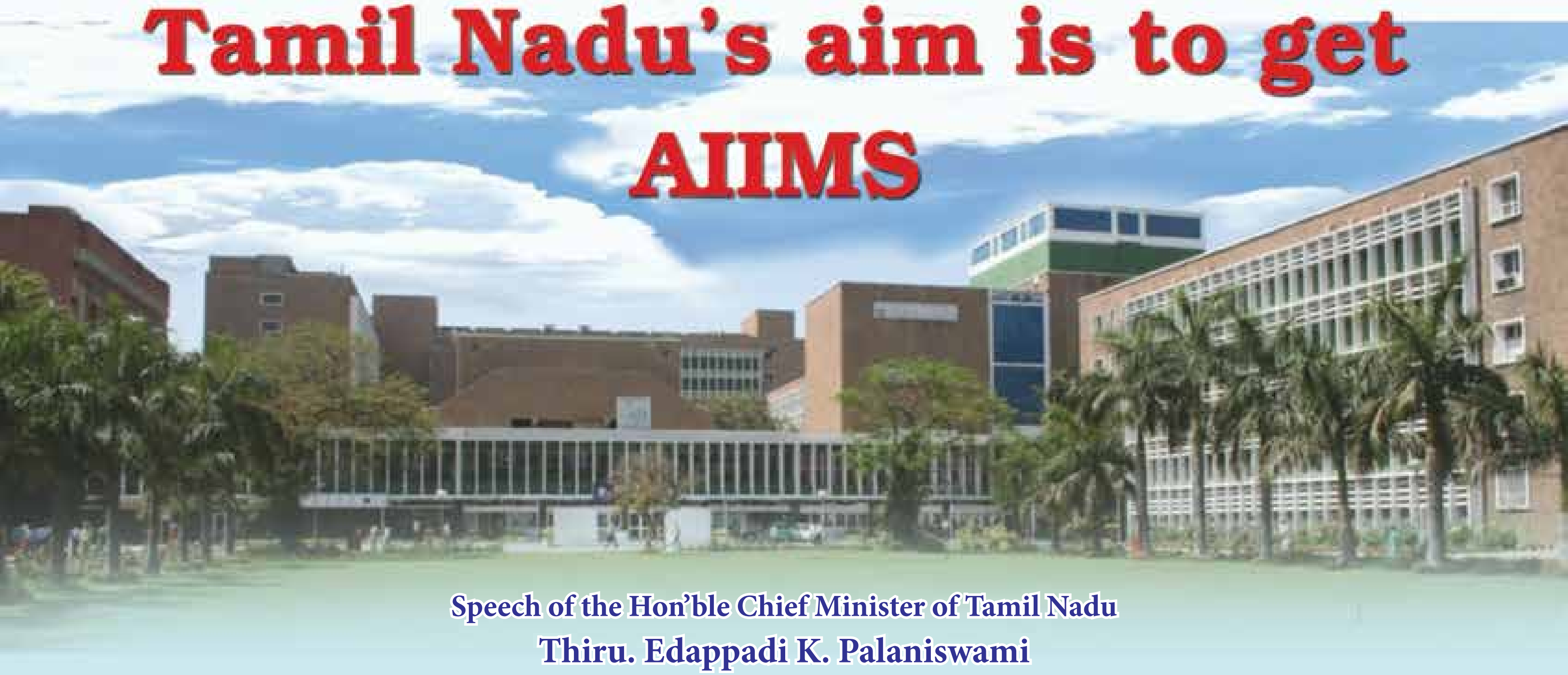
Hon'ble Speaker,

As I have already stated cases are pending in the Supreme Court and in the Madras High Court. The Government will implement the decisions of the Courts.

News in Picture

The Prince of Arcot Thiru. Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali and his son Thiru. Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Secretariat in Chennai on 05.06.2017.

Tamil Nadu's aim is to get AIIMS



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

in the Legislative Assembly regarding AIIMS Hospital *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker,

As for as we are concerned, that member does not know that a letter has been written to the Central Government. He has expressed that view, impelled by the sentiment that AIIMS hospital should be located in his Constituency, in his District. Each and every Member here wants that schemes should come to his/her Constituency. There is no other intention behind it.

Several times, we have urged the Central Government about AIIMS hospital. When Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was Chief Minister, the Tamil Nadu Government sent a letter to the Central Government, mentioning 5 places in the State for locating the AIIMS hospital. A team from the Central Government also came and inspected all the places. However, they were pointing out one defect or the other at each place. As a view emerged that Sengipatti in Thanjavur might be suitable, we mentioned about that in the anxiety that AIIMS hospital should speedily come to be located in Tamil Nadu and that the State should not be deprived of the proposal on any account. But the Central Government did not accept that site also. Again, they are examining whether a site can be selected from among the places they have mentioned.

Tamil Nadu's stand is that AIIMS hospital should be set up in any one of the five places already pointed out. We have mentioned about this (site), only for the reason that Tamil Nadu should not be deprived of the project on some grounds. It is not that the hospital should be set up only at this place. The Central Government officials have already inspected five places in Tamil Nadu. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through you, that the State Government's stand is that AIIMS hospital should be located in one of these 5 places.

Chief Minister inaugurates manifold schemes for Erode District, 'Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's bastion'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

in Erode on 11.06.2017 *(English Translation)*

I pay my respects to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I am happy to meet you all at Erode, the cradle of Dravidian parties.

With the blessings of Amma, the great people's leader, this function of laying foundation stone for new projects in Erode, inaugurating the completed works and distributing Government welfare assistance, is being held in a grand manner as a triple function.

Thiru. K.A. Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare who has delivered the presidential address in this delightful function,

Thiru. P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise,

Thiru. S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programmes Implementation,

Thiru.K.C.Karuppanan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment,

Thiru. S. Selvakumara Chinnayan, Erode MP,

Thiru. K.V.Ramalingam, Erode West MLA,

Thiru. K.S. Thennarasu, Erode East MLA,

Thiru. V.P. Subramani, MLA, Modakurichi,

Thiru. E.M.R. Raja @ K.R. Rajakrishnan, MLA, Andhiyur,

Thiru. U.Thaniyarasu, MLA, Kangeyam,

Thiru. S. Eswaran, MLA, Bhavanisagar,

Dr. S.Prabhakar, Erode District Collector, who delivered the welcome address,

Thiru. M.Seeni Ajmalkhan, Commissioner and Special Officer, Erode Corporation who is to propose a vote of thanks,

Government staff, Newspaper and Media friends, Respected Elders, Ladies and Beneficiaries,

At the outset, I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

Erode is Amma's fort; the only District which returned all the candidates fielded by Amma in the 2016 Assembly Elections; the District that added glory to Amma and the one that shines as the steel fort of Amma. I once again express my thanks to all the good hearts on this dais who have created an opportunity for me to speak in this District that remains Amma's fort.

In memory of Dheeran Chinnamalai, the heroic son of Erode who was hanged by the British for defying them, Hon'ble Amma erected a Manimandapam at Odanilai in Erode and a Memorial at Sangagiri, Salem where he was martyred.

Hon'ble Amma allotted Rs. 1.65 crore in 2016 for erecting a manimandapam in honour of Kalingarayan who sowed the seeds several centuries ago for the linking of rivers. A six-foot bronze of Kalingarayan will be set up and the manimandapam will be declared open

before the year ends. It was Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who started the work on the manimandapam.

The rationalist Sun Thanthai Periyar, who ranked amidst world revolutionaries was born in this Erode and made it a world renowned place.

Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Perarignar Anna whose oratorical and writing skills changed the political scenario of Tamil Nadu, stayed with Periyar in Erode for some years and carried on his writing work.

People in public life like me, get rejuvenated by visiting Erode, rich in several things like literature, history and archaeology. Hon'ble Amma desired that Erode city should excel in infrastructure and road development. It is our duty to fulfil Amma's desire. Erode city abounds in industries and commercial complexes. The number of powerlooms, handlooms and industries is increasing every year. Taking this into account, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Hon'ble Amma issued orders allotting Rs.58.54 crore to the Department of Highways and Minor Ports for construction of a flyover at the road junction of Erode-Perundurai-Kangeyam for de-congesting the traffic. I am immensely happy to lay the foundation, with Hon'ble Amma's good wishes, for this flyover. A flyover at this point will help free flow of traffic from Perundurai, Kangeyam, Palani, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Salem, Namakkal and Karur to Erode. It will be useful to the office going and trading people, college and school students and those wishing to access, in times of emergency, the hospital on the opposite side. The flyover is proposed to be set up as a two way road on the Brough Road-Perundurai route and a bed-level causeway on Dharapuram route. It will have service roads, pavement facilities and rain water drainage. At the road junction, a 30 metre diameter rotary will be set up with a fountain and scenic landscapes. On either side of the flyover concrete pavements will be laid for the use of pedestrians and for movement of utility equipments.

Also, foundation is laid today for a Rs.484.54 crore water supply scheme under the 'Amrit' plan to meet the drinking water needs of people in the Erode Corporation area. This is a big scheme. Our Local Administration Minister was very helpful in completing the preliminary works for the launch of this scheme. As a demand was placed for the immediate supply of protected Cauvery water, sanction was accorded for the scheme in a short duration and tenders had been floated by the Amma Government. Hence, I am happy to announce that Amma's Government has taken expeditious action for the supply of protected Cauvery river water to Erode people.

Moreover, works have been inaugurated for the construction of quarters for the sanitary workers of Erode Corporation at a cost of Rs.3 crore and for a modern abattoir at a cost of Rs.75 lakh. Foundation is laid for construction of additional class rooms for the Erode Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

Work has started on setting up playgrounds under the 'Amrit' scheme at 4 places in the Erode Corporation area at a cost of Rs.2.64 crore.

I have inaugurated construction work for new buildings for 12 High Schools, functioning under the School Education Department, at a cost of Rs.20.26 crore. The Public Works Department will execute the works.

Restoration of Kalingarayan channel at a cost of Rs.36.75 crore to benefit 15,743 acres in the Lower Bhavan Irrigation system has been inaugurated.

Today, I have inaugurated 513 works costing Rs.18.36 crore under the 'THAI' scheme, works on setting up 15 parks (Rs.3 crore) under the Amma Poonga Thittam, 15 gyms (Rs.1.50 crore) under the Amma Udarpayirchi Koodam Thittam, construction of 593 green houses (Rs.10.67 crore) under the Green House Distribution Scheme and construction of 2,998 houses (Rs.50.96 crore) under the Pradan Mantri Awaz Yojana scheme.

Totally, foundation has been laid today for 4,161 works for new schemes, costing Rs.692,03,84,000/-.

Also, parks and playgrounds have been set up at 4 places under the 'Amrit' scheme in Erode Corporation areas (Rs.2.26 crore) and thrown open for public use; a night shelter for homeless pavement dwellers (Rs.25 lakh) has been constructed under the Urban Development Scheme and declared open; additional class rooms, new buildings and laboratory buildings have been constructed in 12 upgraded Government High Schools (Rs.18.43 crore) and declared open.

A District office and a laboratory have been constructed (Rs.2.84 crore) for the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board at the SIPCOT Industrial Development Centre in Perundurai Taluk and has been declared open. A 600 tonnes capacity commodity exchange hall has been constructed at a cost of Rs.50 lakh at the Andhiyur Regulated Market, Andiyur Taluk, out of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and has been declared open. A Rs.30 lakh building has been constructed for the State Agmark Laboratory from the Erode Marketing Hall Fund at Thindal Vidya Nagar, Perundurai Taluk and has been declared open. The Co-operation Department has constructed rest rooms for the Erode Agricultural Producers

Co-operative Society at Thindal region at a cost of Rs.14.50 lakh and they have been declared open. The Rural Development Department's Village Panchayat Service Centre buildings in 20 Panchayats (Rs.3.42 crore) and new Anganwadi buildings constructed in 7 Panchayats at a cost of Rs.53 lakh have been declared open.

Totally, 50 works, costing Rs.31,60,16,000/- have been dedicated for people's use today.

Besides, house site pattas, sewing machines, boxes for ironing clothes and assistance inclusive of forest land ownership certificates (Revenue Department), costing Rs.2.84 crore and orders for construction of houses costing Rs.7.80 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana scheme and Green Houses Distribution Scheme (Rural Development Department) are distributed today.

On behalf of Social Welfare Department, Rs. 99 lakh is distributed as marriage assistance to 198 graduate girls at the rate of Rs.50,000/- each; Rs. 25.50 lakh to 102 non graduate girls at the rate of Rs.25,000/- each; totally 300 women to benefit Rs.1,24,50,000/-; 2,400 gram gold coins costing Rs.74,15,500/- under the 'gold for thali' scheme at the rate of 8 grams per person. Different accessories costing Rs.2 lakh are distributed on behalf of the Welfare of the Differently Abled Department to 34 persons. I am happy to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government has increased the quota in jobs to differently-abled to 4 per cent.

Under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana Insurance Scheme, cheques for Rs. 3 lakh are given to the families of five members at the rate of Rs.60,000/- per family by the Department of Khadi and Textiles.

Under the Social Security scheme, the Department of Labour Welfare is giving scholarships to heirs of the members of Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board and Un-organised Sector Workers Welfare Board for prosecuting Higher Education after passing the 10th and 12th Public Examinations.

Pension and other cash assistance to the tune of Rs.29.80 lakh to 1,212 persons and different welfare assistance costing Rs.28 lakh are given to 30 persons under the THADCO scheme.

Totally, I am happy to inform that welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.13.25 crore is given to 3,701 persons in this function today.

From 2011-2017, works costing Rs.915.78 crore have been completed in Erode District – roads to a length of 2,062.93 kms costing Rs.834.75 crore and 47 bridges costing Rs.81.03 crore.

Besides these, road works to a length of 306 kms (Rs.246.29 crore), construction of six bridges (Rs.89.15 crore) and 5 culverts (Rs.57 lakh) are going on. Construction of a flyover on Periya Sadayampalayam road branching off from Chennimalai road in Sastri Nagar (Rs.10.10 crore) and a bridge across Bhavani river between Periya Kodiveri and Akkarai Kodiveri (Rs.13.20 crore) is going on.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced under Rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly

the laying of an outer ring road for Erode city at a cost of Rs.76.20 crore. I am happy to inform that the project is being implemented.

Though, I have no time to list all the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's golden rule in the last one year in Erode District, I have a duty to mention at least some of them.

Completed projects numbering 361 and costing Rs.109.21 crore have been commissioned; under the free supply of 100 units of electricity to domestic consumers scheme, 6,62,739 families have benefited; de-silting of supply channels running to a length of 98.17 kms and restoration of dams and check dams have been completed at a cost of Rs.36.52 crore; under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, 16,872 persons have been treated at a cost of Rs.30.27 crore; under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, 14,125 pregnant women have been given Rs.12.05 crore; crop loans amounting to Rs.245.35 crore have been given to 31,658 farmers through the Central Co-operative Banks; 52,994 farmers have benefited to the tune of Rs.307.37 crore due to the waiver of co-operative agricultural loans; along with a marriage assistance of Rs.18.60 crore, 12,812 grams of gold for 'thali' have been given to 3,203 poor women; drought relief amounting to Rs.59.65 crore has been given to 1,33,880 agricultural and horticultural farmers; under the 'Uzhavar Paadhukaappu Thittam', 10,229 persons have been given an assistance of Rs.10.51 crore; drinking water supply has been undertaken in drought affected areas at a cost of Rs.17.87 crore; 289 km long roads have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.165.68 crore; 56 'kudimaramathu' works are being implemented at a cost of Rs.4.91 crore; and 10,665 farmers have benefited under the scheme to de-silt tanks and lakes through permission granted to remove the de-silted sand.

The permission for the removal of the de-silted sand is a sequel to a long standing demand of farmers to enrich their agricultural lands. Amma's Government has implemented it. Farmers can take the de-silted sand free of cost after getting permission from the officials concerned.

Also, representation has been made to me that sand price is sky-rocketing. Addressing their concern, we announced that Government will take over the sand quarries and run them. It has been implemented. Within a week, I am happy to inform, things will be rectified and sand supply will be made at your door step at low price. Enough sand to meet your requirements will be supplied.

As the people of Erode have demonstrated on several occasions their affection for Hon'ble Amma, so too Hon'ble Amma and later this Government, following in her footsteps, have been providing different schemes in succession for the welfare of Erode people. I am proud to inform that more schemes will follow. I assure you we will continue the schemes which Hon'ble Amma wanted to implement for this District.

A representation was made about the traffic congestion in Erode on account of the narrow roads. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already announced the construction of a high rise flyover near the Government Hospital for de-congesting the roads. Foundation is laid today for that flyover. But this is not enough. I am happy to inform that the stretch of high rise flyover will be extended as far as its need is felt. This will remove the traffic congestion. Like wise, a representation was made for widening the Erode-Gobi road. I am happy to inform that the road to Gobi from Erode via Chithodu will be widened till Kanirowther Kulam. The Government will consider the other demands also like a by-pass road in Gobi, a bus stand for the Modakurichi assembly constituency, a combined water supply scheme for the region and a bigger District Collectorate. This is Amma's District; Amma's fort. I am happy to inform, it is our duty to implement schemes for the people of this District.

Erode remains the centre of the entire Kongu region. I studied in the Srivasavi College which has seen its golden jubilee, in this very Erode City. I gained many friends during my college days. They were all sincere, trustworthy and affectionate. Such friendship and trust were a strength to me in my later public life. I am reminded of a story when I say this.

A traveller was passing through a forest to reach his town. As it became dark, he sat under a tree, fearing that he might fall a prey to animals if he continued the journey in the night. Like him, another person also was coming alone. They accidently met, became friends and started to walk with the idea that one could help the other to cross the forest. They also pledged to help each other to overcome any danger that may confront them. After they crossed a distance, they saw a bear. Forgetting the pledge, one ran away and climbed a tree. The other did not know the art of climbing. He laid down and withheld his breath. The bear sniffed him and went away thinking that he was dead. The one on the tree came down and asked the other: 'what did the bear utter to you'. The other person replied: 'Don't have friendship hereafter with betrayers like you who breach their pledge, is what the bear said.' We should understand that those who extend a helping hand during times of crisis, are our true friends. I trust my friends totally. That trust alone has lifted me up to this level. My friends too will rise up on account of me.

This is a District full of farmers. It is my duty to discern and meet your requirements. As I hail from a farmer's family, I know well what difficulties they face. Hence, Amma's Government will be a steadfast friend to farmers. It will provide all assistance to you. The people of this District are hard workers, loyalists. They should continue their support to Amma's Government. I take leave of you, thanking all the good hearts who have arranged this excellent and spirited event.

Nandri!! Vanakkam!!

ATM cards for Co-operative bank customers, RuPay cards for farmers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami distributed at the Secretariat on 12.06.2017, ATM cards to customers of District Central Co-operative Banks and RuPay agricultural credit cards to farmers and inaugurated the services of 40 ATM machines installed in 23 District Central Co-operative Banks.

'Core Banking Solutions' have been implemented in co-operative banks from 2012 as a measure to deliver services on par with other banks. As the next step, the ATM services and the RuPay credit card services are introduced in the co-operative sector to benefit 19 lakh customers and 4.56 lakh farmers. By way of inaugurating these services, the Chief Minister distributed the ATM cards to 6 customers of the District Central Co-operative banks and RuPay agriculture credit cards to 5 farmers who avail of crop loan in co-operative credit societies and have opened accounts in central co-operative banks.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the services of 40 ATM machines newly installed in the 23 District Central Co-operative banks to benefit its own customers and those from other banks also.

Through this, customers of the District Central Co-operative banks and farmers can make money transactions in all ATM booths in India through their ATM and RuPay agriculture credit cards.

Rs. 56.92 crore Kuruvai package for Cauvery delta farmers

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

on 12.06.2017 (*English Translation*)

To usher in the second green revolution in Tamil Nadu, the State Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes to encourage agriculture and increase agricultural production.

Last year, the Mettur Dam could not be opened on June 12 for kuruvai cultivation as the Karnataka Government did not release Tamil Nadu's share of water in the Cauvery river. To protect the delta farmers' interests, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government implemented a special package at a cost of Rs.54.65 crore to undertake kuruvai cultivation, using the ground water. This helped cultivation of paddy in 3.16 lakh acres and 1,37,314 farmers benefited.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government also implemented a special samba package scheme as there was no sufficient water in Mettur dam to undertake the traditional method of samba cultivation by raising a nursery and transplanting the paddy seedlings. The package gave importance to direct sowing of paddy. This helped samba cultivation in 9.56 lakh acres last year and 2,79,449 farmers benefited.

As the monsoon was below normal last year, cultivated crops were heavily damaged; Tamil Nadu Government declared all the Districts as drought affected; waived the land tax to be remitted by farmers totally; allotted from the State Disaster Fund Rs.2,247 crore as input subsidy for crop loss of more than 33 per cent and the subsidy was credited to the bank accounts of farmers.

Tamil Nadu Government is also taking steps to get compensation for the crop loss to the affected farmers under insurance cover from the insurance companies concerned. In 2016-2017, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi

Amma's Government decided to implement the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme in Tamil Nadu to protect the farmers from crop loss and made timely arrangements for the registration of farmers under this scheme. This resulted in the registration of 15.37 lakh farmers who had cultivated agricultural and horticultural crops in about 31.85 lakh acres, under this scheme.

On behalf of the farmers, Tamil Nadu Government paid Rs.428 crore as insurance premium to the insurance companies. This paved the way for farmers to get compensation ranging from Rs.4,800/- to Rs.69,000/- per acre in proportion to the crop loss. The insurance companies are distributing the compensation in stages after ascertaining the yield loss on the basis of crop harvesting tests. The Tamil Nadu Government is taking all steps to expedite the distribution of the compensation. As a result of Government 's constant efforts, the compensation arrears of Rs.403.79 crore under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme from 2015-2016 were credited to the bank accounts of 2.96 lakh farmers in May, 2017.

Steps have been taken to register 24 lakh farmers who are cultivating agricultural and horticultural crops in 51.38 lakh acres under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme in 2017-2018 also The State Government has allotted Rs.522.70 crore for this.

A review meeting on taking up kuruvai cultivation in delta Districts in the current year was held at the Secretariat. I chaired the meeting. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Chief Secretary to Government Tmt. Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. K. Shanmugam I.A.S., Agriculture Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi I.A.S., Director, Agriculture Thiru. Dakshinamurthy I.A.S., and other high officials participated.

At the meeting detailed discussions were held on the present water level at Mettur dam, the quantum of water to be received from Karnataka State and on taking up kuruvai cultivation under the present conditions.

Crop cultivation in delta areas depends on the water let out in the Cauvery river for irrigation from the Mettur dam. Every year, the dam will be opened for kuruvai cultivation on June 12 if the water level in the dam is 90 feet. If the southwest monsoon is normal and timely, it is possible to take up kuruvai cultivation from the water received at the Mettur dam. Last year, the kuruvai and samba cultivations were affected as Karnataka did not release proportionate water as ordered by the Supreme Court. More so, the present water level at Mettur dam is just 23.68 feet against the full level of 120 feet. A condition has come about where Mettur dam cannot be opened for kuruvai cultivation with the water available at present.

Generally during the kuruvai season in the delta areas, paddy crop is raised in 3.15 lakh acres in six Districts barring the Districts of

Karur and Pudukkottai and pulse crops in 30,000 acres in the three Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam from April to July end. In times when there is no channel irrigation, deep borewell irrigation and tubewell irrigation is resorted to for taking up kuruvai cultivation in the delta areas. It has become very much necessary to encourage pulse cultivation as an alternative crop to paddy to handle water sparingly and efficiently.

To protect the interests of farmers under the present condition, following announcements are made:

As was supplied in the last five years, three phase power will be supplied this year also for 12 hours every day for agriculture in the delta Districts.

Paddy cultivation is planned to be taken up in 1.60 lakh acres alone with available water resources; pulse cultivation as an alternative to paddy will be taken up in 1.32 lakh acres.

Subsidy at the rate of Rs.4,000/- per acre will be given for mechanized sowing of paddy for timely cultivation of paddy and for simplifying weed removal, Rs. 520/- per acre for applying zinc sulphate and bio-fertilizers for soil development and increasing the yield and Rs.200/- per acre for application of micro-nutrient fertilizer.

To encourage pulse cultivation amidst delta farmers, Rs. 960/- subsidy per acre will be given for getting quality pulse seeds and Rs.640/- per acre for application of DAP and bio-fertilizers for increasing the yield.

Also, a subsidy of Rs.500/- per acre will be given for utilizing the monsoon rains fully to raise kuruvai crop immediately; to increase the kuruvai acreage by using ground water thriftily, a subsidy of Rs.21,000/- per unit will be given for water conveying pipes; each unit will have 30 PVC pipes of 110 mm diameter and 6 ft. long.

For improving the soil fertility in the tail end areas of Grand Anaicut, a subsidy of Rs.1,200/- per acre will be given for raising green fodder.

This Kuruvai package, announced for undertaking kuruvai cultivation in the normal areas using the deep bore well and tube well water resources, will be taken up at a cost of Rs.56.92 crore. Its aims are to raise a short term crop utilizing minimum water, to encourage pulse cultivation as an alternative crop and to protect the livelihood of farmers and agricultural labour.

The Kuruvai package, announced by my Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will pave the way for taking up kuruvai paddy and pulse cultivation in delta Districts, utilizing the ground water, for getting higher yield and for enriching the soil. I have directed the Agriculture Department to commence these works immediately. ■

82 appointed on compassionate grounds

In the junior assistant vacant posts in the School Education Department, 25 per cent is filled up on compassionate grounds under the Tamil Nadu Ministerial Staff Special Rules. On the basis of the date of death of the Government employee/teacher, priority is fixed and the heir of the deceased Government employee/teacher is given appointment on compassionate grounds.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, fixed the likely vacancies for the post of junior assistants and issued orders that of those posts, 82 should be filled up on compassionate grounds. Accordingly, on 05.06.2017, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami issued appointment orders at the Secretariat to 7 persons as a token to mark the distribution of the orders to 82 heirs of Government employee/teacher who had died in harness.

Mazdoor posts in Stationery Department

The Department of Stationery and Printing is engaged in printing standardized forms, registers, Department-wise manuals, birth and death certificates, electoral forms and National Census registers needed for the use of Government departments all over the State and in procuring necessary modern new machines required for Government press units as also spare parts and paper for them.

To fill up 50 vacant mazdoor posts in the Department of Stationery and Printing, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami presented appointment orders at the Secretariat on 24.06.2017 to 7 persons as a token to mark the distribution of the orders to 50 heirs of employees in the Departments of Highways, Labour Welfare and in Stationery and Printing who had died in harness on the basis of seniority of applications seeking employment on compassionate grounds.

Chief Minister asks AP counterpart to desist from check dam on Kusa

D.O. letter dated 16.06.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

"I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue relating to the action of the Irrigation Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh by commencing construction of a Check Dam across the river Kusa at Nelavayl Village, Karvet Nagar Mandal, Chittoor District, which is a sub-tributary of the Inter-State river Kosasthalaiyar. This unilateral action of the authorities in Andhra Pradesh has caused great alarm and apprehension amongst the farmers in Tamil Nadu.

The Kusa river, a sub-tributary of Kosasthalaiyar river, supports an ayacut of about 354.32 acres fed by the Veligaram tank in Tamil Nadu. Any intervention of the flow to this tank is of great concern to the farmers who depend on the waters of this tank.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh should have consulted and obtained prior consent of the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu before commencing any new work across the river Kusa, a sub-tributary of the Kosasthalaiyar river, or in any stream/channel taking off from it. This action of the authorities in Andhra Pradesh will affect the natural flow in the stream or channel taking off from it and would obstruct the flow to the Veligaram tank in the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu.

In these circumstances, the Government of Tamil Nadu lodges its strong protest against the action of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in having unilaterally commenced the work for the construction of a Check Dam at Nelavayl, Karvet Nagar Mandal in Chittoor District.

I also request you to immediately intervene in the matter and issue instructions to the officials concerned to stop the construction activities of the Check Dams at Nelavayl Village and also not to take up any diversion works/check dam works across Kusa or in any tributaries or sub–tributaries of Kosasthalaiyar river without obtaining the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu and also to furnish full details of the Check Dam under construction / proposed to be constructed in the sub-tributaries, tributaries etc., in the Kosasthalaiyar river.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in the matter".

Swift Government action providing yield details brings speedy compensation for farmers

Mettur dam was not opened to let out water for irrigation on June 12 in 2016-2017 as the storage was low in the dam. However, a 'kuruvai special package scheme' was implemented, on the direction of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to take up kuruvai cultivation by using ground water, for safeguarding the livelihood of delta farmers. Through this, paddy was grown in 3.16 lakh acres in the kuruvai season last year and 5.02 lakh tonnes rice was produced.

As there was no sufficient rain in the beginning of the North-East Monsoon, in the interest of delta famers, a 'samba special package' scheme was implemented on the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Through this, samba cultivation was undertaken in 11.92 lakh acres.

To safeguard the livelihood of farmers affected by crop loss, the Government undertook serious efforts to implement, as per the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the new crop insurance scheme in Tamil Nadu. Through this, crop in 31.85 lakh acres, cultivated by 15.37 lakh farmers in 31 Districts in the State, barring Chennai, was insured under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme. Tamil Nadu was one of the states which took up the insurance scheme in a major way.

Under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, the Districts in Tamil Nadu were divided into 3 groups and the insurance scheme is implemented through Agriculture Insurance

Company of India Ltd., New India Assurance General Insurance company and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company.

Though the State Government's share in the premium payment rose several fold, compared to the previous years, the premium subsidy of Rs.428 crore was paid in time to the insurance companies in 2016-2017 in the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers.

Last year, as the North-East Monsoon was very deficient, Tamil Nadu was hit by an unprecedented drought and crops were damaged. The State Government declared all the Districts as drought-hit and Rs.2,247 crore was distributed to farmers as input subsidy from the State Disaster Relief Fund.

The Tamil Nadu Government, on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, took speedy action to provide to the insurance companies within the stipulated time, yield details by quickly conducting crop harvest tests at village level through the Departments of Agriculture and Statistics so that farmers affected by crop loss could get speedy compensation. The Chief Minister also has been urging the Prime Minister on this score.

The earnest efforts put in by Tamil Nadu Government to complete all the works under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme resulted in the quick calculation of the compensation and the Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution on 24.04.2017. Till 20.06.2017, Rs. 40 crore has been distributed as compensation. The amount has been credited directly to the bank accounts of farmers. Of this amount, Rs.6.40 crore was distributed by the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Corporation to farmers in the Districts of Salem and Tiruppur whose samba crops were affected. The New India Assurance General Insurance company distributed Rs.18.6 crore to samba crop affected farmers in some areas of Nagapattinam District and in the Districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri; the balance of Rs. 15 crore was distributed by the Agriculture Insurance company of India Ltd., to farmers in some areas in the Districts of Erode, Namakkal, Tiruchi and Karur.

The Agriculture Insurance Company agreed on 21.06.2017 to release Rs.888 crore in the second phase, due to the serial steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. This amount will cover the affected farmers in 10 Districts. The company has particularly announced that Rs. 489 crore will be credited to the farmers in Tiruvarur District in the next 10 days, Rs. 355 crore to Ramanathapuram farmers, Rs.20 crore to Tiruchi District farmers, Rs. 24 crore to farmers in the Districts of Ariyalur, Dindigul, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Karur, Madurai, Namakkal and Perambalur.

So far a compensation of Rs.928.12 crore has been obtained from insurance companies for 2,92,096 farmers in 16 Districts whose samba crops had been damaged. The Agriculture Department continues to press the insurance companies, on the orders of the Chief Minister, to quickly disburse the balance compensation amount to the paddy growers and the compensation for other crops.

Chief Minister issues pre-school certificates to anganwadi kids

The Integrated Child Development Programme is implemented through 54,439 anganwadi centres in Tamil Nadu. They provide nutrition, the required ambiance for the continuance of education in primary schools to the children under their care and perform other works needed for the safe and healthy growth of the children.

As per the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy 2013 (ECCE), a new lesson 'Aadipaadi Vilayadu Paappa' has been introduced in the pre-school syllabus for children 2 to 5 years old, studying in anganwadi centres. To implement this scheme Rs.15.59 crore is spent annually towards pre-school accessories, text books, books for practicals and examination sheets. In this respect, Tamil Nadu is a model to other States in turning anganwadi centres into vibrant pre-school education and growth centres.

In the Demands for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme Department for 2016-2017, it was announced that a new scheme to issue pre-school education completion certificate to anganwadi children leaving for other schools for primary education, would be implemented, as per the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, from this financial year.

By way of implementing Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's order, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami presented pre-school completion certificates on 13.06.2017 at the Secretariat to 7 anganwadi centre children as a token to mark the inauguration of the scheme for presenting such certificates to 2,62,073 anganwadi centre children who have completed 5 years of age in the 2016-2017 academic year and are leaving for continuing their primary school education.

By issuing these certificates, enrollment in anganwadi centres and in primary schools will increase and drop-outs will lessen.

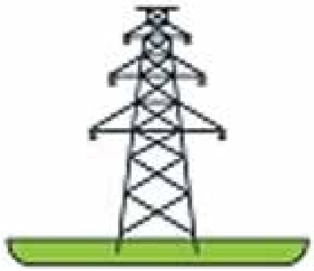
New power schemes following Amma's footsteps for round-the-clock supply

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 29.06.2017 (*English Translation*)

Energy Department

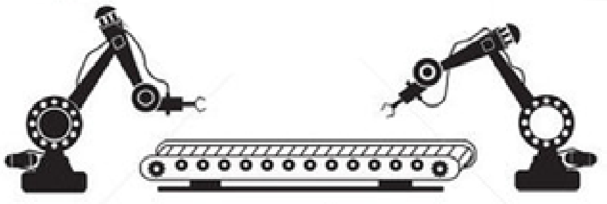
Uninterrupted power supply is essential for life. In the last six years, during Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule, many power schemes were executed speedily. At present, Tamil Nadu is a power surplus State because of the effective steps taken by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Power sub-stations, transmission lines and transformers were set up in such a way as to provide quality electricity to all. The power regulation schedules, in force in 2008, have all been removed from 05.06.2015, due to relentless efforts of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Now, electricity is supplied round-the-clock to all consumers. As per the promise made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the AIADMK party's election manifesto for the 2016 Assembly Elections, free supply of electricity up to 100 units is given to all domestic consumers.



I am happy to announce in this House the new electricity schemes to be undertaken by the Electricity Board in the current year.

- In the Manalmedu area of Nagapattinam District, a 400 KV sub-station and connected transmission lines will be set up at an estimate of Rs.650 crore.
- In Koyambedu in Chennai City a new 400 KV gas insulated sub-station (GIS) with connected transmission lines will be set up at a cost of Rs. 1,300 crore.
- The 230 KV Taramani sub-station will be upgraded into a 400 KV gas insulated sub-station at a cost of Rs.710 crore.
- The Tamil Nadu Generation of Electricity and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) will set up a 500 MW ultra mega solar photovoltaic power park at a cost of Rs.2,350 crore at Naripaiyur (inclusive of nearby Villages), Kadaladi Taluk, Ramanathapuram District on engineering – procurement- construction (EPC) basis.
- By way of upgrading the power infrastructure in Greater Chennai city, I am happy to announce the setting up of 31 new sub-stations, upgradation of 314 operational high tension transformers, setting up of new 33/11 KV feeders and strengthening of operational 33/11 KV feeders, will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.1,800 crore.
- One hundred and twenty-eight sub-stations – four 230 KV stations, forty four 110 KV stations and eighty 33 KV stations - will be set up across Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 1,347 crore.
- A memorandum of understanding signed by the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. paves the way for speedily taking up efficient capacity execution, increase the renewable potential and reduce the consumption of fossil fuel in the next 3 years at an investment of Rs.11,000 crore.

Industries Department



Hon'ble Speaker,

Tamil Nadu has all the conducive factors for starting industries in the Country – excellent skilled manpower, round-the-clock quality power and a friendly ambience. It is in second place after Maharashtra in total domestic production in India; first in the number of industries and workers in them; first in the registration of new small, micro and medium industries; in the third place as per the net value addition; again in the third place in the revenue value of the goods manufactured and in total exports and it is the premier State in attracting foreign direct investment.

On behalf of Amma's Government, functioning in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I am extremely happy to make the following announcements in this House for further strengthening the industrial growth in Tamil Nadu.

- I am happy to inform that a multi-nodal logistics park will be set up by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) jointly with the National Highways Authority of the

Central Government on 360 acres of land in the Villages of Puzhuthivakkam and Vayalur, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.1,295 crore. Transport charges, pollution by vehicles and traffic congestion are likely to come down by setting up this park. This scheme includes the constructional facilities of the Industrial Node Development scheme.

❖ The SIPCOT Thoothukudi Industrial Complex Stage – I is located on a 1,032 acre land alongside the by-pass road for NH 45 B in the Meelavittan Village, Thoothukudi District. Considering the demand for industrial plots in that area and the connectivity facilities by sea, air and rail, the SIPCOT Thoothukudi Industrial Complex Stage II will be set up on 1,600 acre area adjacent to the Stage I complex in the Villages of Veerapandiapuram and Meelavittan in Ottapidaram Taluk. To develop this complex, initially infrastructure facilities, interior roads, arrangements to supply water, storm water drainage, planting of avenue trees, street lights and other facilities will be created in two years in 600 acres of land at a cost of Rs.60 crore. I am happy to inform that this will bring about Rs.500 crore investment, direct employment to 10,000 persons and indirect employment opportunities to 20,000 persons.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department

Hon’ble Speaker,

On behalf of this Government, following in the footsteps of Hon’ble Amma, I am proud to announce the following schemes for the growth of micro, small and medium industries.

❖ Starting industrial estates with all facilities and maintaining them efficiently are the works of the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation. Through this Corporation 3 industrial estates will be set up at a cost of Rs.77 crore – on a 20 acre area in the Villages of Mulluwadi and Nagaleri, Arcot Taluk, Vellore District (Rs.4.74 crore), on 216.37 acre land in the Village of Yenambakkam, Oothukottai Taluk, Tiruvallur District (Rs.58.82 crore) and on a 57.18 acre land in the Villages of Periyakolaapaadi and Kannakkurukkai, Chengam Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District (Rs.13.44 crore).

❖ The number of registered Micro, Small and Medium (MSM) industries in Tamil Nadu is 6.92 lakh. The Erode Micro and Small Industries Association will set up 20 godowns, administrative office, display centre and negotiation hall at a cost of Rs.6.52 crore, benefiting 700 micro industries; the Kakkalur Micro and Small industries Association will set up a training centre, marketing and display centre, negotiation hall at a cost of Rs.4.64 crore benefiting 120 micro industries; the Thirumudivakkam Industrial Estate Association will set up a sewerage treatment plant at cost of Rs.2.60 crore in Part I of the Estate benefiting 60 micro industries; the Association will also set up a training centre, marketing and display

centre, common godown, negotiation hall at a cost of Rs.5.01 crore benefiting 100 micro industries in Part II of the Estate. As Government share for the above schemes of these associations, Rs. 10 crore will be given.

- Tea is the main plantation crop in Nilgiris District. Tea factories play an important role in raising the economic condition of small tea farmers. Fluctuations in tea market now and then inflict losses on the industrial co-operative tea factories. These factories are unable to give fair price to industrial co-operative association members who supply green tea. To protect the interests of small tea farmers, a 'Price Stabilisation Fund' was created by the Tamil Nadu Government, jointly with Indcoserve in 2014-2015 with an investment of Rs.12 crore. Still, as the market fluctuations take place often and as the small tea farmers are greatly affected, finding a long-term solution has become a necessity. As a part of these efforts, I am happy to inform that the value added Catechin tea production units will be started in the Kaikatti and Mahalinga Industrial Co-operative Tea factories, Nilgiris District, at a cost of Rs.2.05 crore in each with the assistance of the Palampur Institute of Himalayan Biosource Technology Institute, Himachal Pradesh. The Catechin tea is produced by mixing polyphenols with green tea extracts.

Hon'ble Speaker,

I am happy to make the following announcements on behalf of the Social

Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department

Welfare Department. At present, the Tamil Nadu Government is running 36 Government Children's Homes. The 38-year old Annai Sathya Ammaiyar Memorial Children's Home in Salem District is greatly damaged.

I am happy to inform that the present old building will be demolished and a new one to accommodate 100 children will be constructed at a cost of Rs.9.46 crore. The new building with all infrastructure facilities will have classrooms, office room, dining hall, modular kitchen, store room, dormitories (with toilet and bathroom facilities), meditation hall, recreation room, room for the staff and quarters for 10 workers.

Welfare of the Differently – Abled Department

Hon'ble Speaker,

This Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's governance, has increased the already existing 3 per cent quota to 4 per cent for the differently-

abled persons in Government jobs. This quota is applicable to all Government posts, public sector undertakings, boards and local body set ups. I am happy to make the following announcements in this House to give more benefits to the differently-abled persons.

- Many rehabilitation works are undertaken through the welfare of the Differently -Abled Department, for the free movement of persons with disabilities in hands and legs through distribution of paraplegic equipment, walking sticks and artificial limbs. Rollator/walker equipment to help differently-abled children below three years of age, to practice walking will be distributed to 1,000 children in the current year at a cost of Rs.10 lakh.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 enjoins the creation of facilities like lifts, ramps, toilet in all Government public buildings for ensuring equality of opportunities to the differently-abled, signs for easy understanding for the hearing impaired and information boards in Braille letters for the visually challenged persons.

To create these facilities, an audit committee will be set up with technical experts/workers in the current year. For the committee to take up its works, Rs.20 lakh will be allotted. Through this, I am happy to inform that a hassle free atmosphere can be created fully and speedily for the differently-abled persons all over the State.

News in Picture

The Tamil Nadu Mines Owners' Association president Thiru. Abirami Ramanathan along with other office-bearers of the Association made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 05.06.2017. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju was also present.

Facilities upgraded at Sports University

The first floor of the Administrative Block, the first floors of the hostels for boy and girl students, quarters for the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Teachers and staff, all constructed at a cost of Rs.4,81,20,000/- at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, Melakottaiyur, Kancheepuram District were declared open at the Secretariat on 24.06.2017 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation for additional class rooms, laboratory building and for the second floors' construction in the hostels for boy and girl students.

The Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many schemes like enabling sports personnel from Tamil Nadu to participate in National and International competitions by encouraging them and training them, giving incentives to medallists in these competitions for adding glory to Tamil Nadu and setting up stadia and indoor stadia on global standards.

On account of the efforts of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University was set up at Melakottaiyur village, Kancheepuram District on 125 acres of land in 2005, the first of its kind in the whole country. Besides physical education, the university will promote sports-related courses and research studies at International level.

By way of upgrading the infrastructure facilities at this University, the Chief Minister declared open the first floor of the Administrative Block, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.55 crore, quarters for the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Teacher and the staff (Rs.1,37,70,000/), the first floor of Men's hostel (Rs.1.16 crore and the first floor of Women's hostel (Rs.72.50 lakh).

He also laid the foundation for additional classrooms and a laboratory building (proposed layout Rs.4,67,50,000/-), the second floor in Men's hostel (Rs.1.76 crore) and second floor in Women's hostel (Rs.1,04,50,000/-). Totally, foundation was laid for buildings costing Rs.7.48 crore.

News in Picture

The Chairman and Managing Director of Ford India Pvt. Ltd., Thiru. Anurag Mehrotra made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat in Chennai on 12.06.2017. On the occasion the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath , Principal Secretary for Industries Thiru. Atulya Misra I.A.S., General Manager of the Ford India Pvt. Ltd., Dr.Balaji were also present.

Chief Minister opens Porur flyover

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open on 25.06.2017 for public use, the 505 metre long Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R flyover, constructed at a cost of Rs. 54 crore, at the Porur junction of the Kodambakkam-Sriperumbudur and Mount-Poonamallee roads.

Speaking at a function organized in this connection, the Chief Minister said, after paying respects to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R, that the construction of the flyover had faced several difficulties. In the early stages, the previous regime had started work on the road bridge without acquiring land. After assuming power in 2011, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ordered that construction of the flyover should be completed soon. Work on the flyover had to be suspended as needed land was not available. Owners of the land had gone to Court. Work on the flyover was started after getting a favourable order from the Court. In the next stage, a water supply pipe beneath the flyover had to be removed. Despite floating tenders several times for this work, no one came forward. As an alternative solution, the pipeline was changed and tender for the flyover had to be re-floated. Today, it has come to fruition.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma advised us to acquire land first before taking up any work- whether it was flyover work, or widening of roads and laying by-pass roads. Preliminary works had to be undertaken by the Government itself. These works covered removal of water supply and drainage pipes, re-locating street light posts and communication structures. As this Government carried out Amma's injunction of completing preliminary works before taking up the main works, it could complete its projects in time, especially in the Highways Department.

After thanking the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. Benjamin, MPs

including the MP of the Constituency, MLAs, former Ministers, Secretary of the Department, Tiruvallur District Collector, the District Administration staff, former MPs and MLAs, former local body representatives, co-operative executives, elders, ladies and media friends, the Chief Minister declared open the flyover by waving the flag.

The flyover is 505 metre long and 17.20 metre wide. On an average, 1,18,015 vehicles pass through Porur junction every day. Porur junction is one of the most congested places in Greater Chennai City. The flyover will ease traffic movement and avert wastage in travel time.

Founder and Managing Director of Aeropark, Aerospace Engineers (P) Ltd. Salem Thiru. A.R.Sundaram, along with his family members met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat on 29.06.2017 and showed the 'MSME Best Quality Product Award' presented to his industry by the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Union Government and received the Chief Minister's blessings. Thiru. Mangat Ram Sharma I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department was present on the occasion.

State to come out soon with Aerospace, Defence Policy, says Chief Minister

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Confederation of Indian Industries third south zone enclave on 03.06.2017

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. Thangamani,

Hon'ble Industries Minister Thiru Sampath,

CII's South Zone President Thiru. Vikram Kirloskar,

CII's South Zone Vice President Thiru. Dinesh,

Tamil Nadu CII President Thiru. Ravichandran,

CII's South Zone Director Thiru. Satish Raman and

Other industrialists present here, Chief Executives of different companies, Government officials, print and electronic media friends,

My respects to all of you.

I am extremely happy to participate in this third south zone enclave of the Confederation of Indian Industries.

This Government is functioning on Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's policy of making Tamil Nadu a model State, not only in industrial sector but in all fields.

We all know how Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma excellently conducted the Global Investors Meet on Sept. 9 and 10 in 2015, gaining the admiration of the entire world. On this occasion I wish to recall CII's great contribution for the success of that Meet.

A conducive climate for investment has always prevailed in Tamil Nadu for achieving excellent growth in Information Technology, Manufacture and Service sectors. To take this growth to the next stage, the 'Vision 2023' document prepared by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma very clearly mentions the targets to be achieved by the State and the schemes to be implemented for that. It is highly necessary that industries which are represented here and industrial federations should work jointly with the Government to achieve these targets and take Tamil Nadu's economy on a long trajectory of growth. In that respect, the conference held today is very important.

On this occasion, I am happy to point out that the Tamil Nadu Government and the CII have been jointly conducting for the last 16 years, the IT-related seminar 'CONNECT' inaugurated by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2001.

The Tamil Nadu Government is now preparing many action plans in the industrial sector. These changes are made to suit the changing global economic climate. Particularly steps have been taken to further simplify the already prevailing conducive climate and issue online approvals and licences for industries over a single application. It will come into effect shortly. If need be, laws too will be enacted for this. To cite proof of the effect of the steps taken by Tamil Nadu Government, I am happy to state that the State Investment Potential Index report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, has ranked Tamil Nadu third at the national level in taking decisions on medium-level investments. In the preparation of this report, various elements like the number of workers, quality, capacity, infrastructure facilities, State's

economic condition, political stability, governance, law and order and the sentiments of industries have been factored in.

Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Amma was a exemplar to other States in framing industrial policies. In 2014, the Tamil Nadu Government proclaimed its industrial policy, a policy for automobile and automobile spare parts and a biotechnology policy. I am happy to inform that an aerospace park is being set up by TIDCO on a 267-acre area in the Sriperumbudur SIPCOT complex in Kancheepuram District. As the next step, an aerospace and defense policy is to be proclaimed. Excellent infrastructure facilities in Tamil Nadu, namely excellent road facility, four major ports, 20 minor ports, seven airports and uninterrupted power supply – have made the state an investor friendly State. The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing a Madurai-Thoothukudi "Industrial Corridor Scheme" to hasten industrial growth in southern Districts. I have great satisfaction in stating that land acquisition has been completed in these two Districts.

A good yardstick to measure the flow of new industrial investments to the state and the setting up of new industrial establishments is the 'consent to operate' certificate issued by the Pollution Control Department. From May 2011 to May 2017, the number of such certificates issued by this Department is 15,671. This is not all. The number of high tension power connections given is 2,472 between 2011 and 2017. Foreign Direct Investment, attracted by Tamil Nadu in the above period is Rs.1,25,970/- crore. The FDI growth rate, attracted by Tamil Nadu had increased by 263 per cent in the period May 2011 to December 2016. As per the data given out by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, guaranteed investment in Tamil Nadu from 2011 to 2017, is Rs.3,07,457 crore. Also, I wish to inform that works are on for setting up a Visakapattinam-Chennai-Thoothukudi-Kanniyakumari industrial corridor jointly with the Central Government and the Asian Development Bank.

When the above schemes come into operation, it is certain that an unprecedented huge economic change and growth will occur all over Tamil Nadu.

I am proud to inform that from out of the 98 memoranda of understanding (with a value of Rs.2.42 lakh crore) signed at the Global Investors Meet, 61 schemes valued at Rs.62,738 crore are in different stages of operation. This has created employment opportunities to 76,777 person.

The Tamil Nadu Government is closely monitoring all the above schemes and is taking all necessary co-ordination steps for their speedy execution. Following the success of the last Global Investors' Meet, I wish to state, the Tamil Nadu Government will host the next such meet in 2018.

This Government will continue to effect needed alterations in policy for taking the economic growth of Tamil Nadu to the next stage, create new infrastructure facilities, simplify the conditions for starting and running industries and accord priority for human resources development. For achieving these, I seek the cooperation of industrial entrepreneurs and industrial federations like the CII. I have no doubt that our state will travel fast in the path of growth when we join hands and work.

I heartily thank the President and all other executives of CII for giving me this opportunity to address you. My good wishes for the success of this event and the State to benefit out of it. ■

School buildings opened under scheme for middle school education for all

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat on 24.06.2017 through video conferencing school buildings for 15 Government High Schools in Tiruvannamalai District, constructed under the 'Middle School Education for All' scheme at a cost of Rs.25,12,24,000/- and classrooms, laboratory buildings, toilets and compound walls in Government Higher Secondary Schools at Keezh Punnai Pudupalayam, Munugapattu and Periyakolapadi, constructed at an estimate of Rs.5,26,17,000/- under NABARD Loan Scheme in the same District. Also, school buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.421,45,45,000/- in different Districts were also declared open.

The Tamil Nadu Government, working on the lines delineated by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many schemes for uplifting students in education and in society. These schemes include, free education, free bus pass, bicycles, school uniforms, text books, note books, laptops, educational accessories, footwear, providing incentives to reduce the occurrence of dropping out and improving school infrastructure like construction of classrooms.

The school buildings declared open in Tiruvannamalai District are located in Government High Schools at Muthanoor, Thurinjikuppam, Pachal, C.M.Puthur, Thoosi, Malamanjanur Puthur, Vazhuthalangunam, Keekkalur, Hariharan Nagar, Velapadi, Karimalaipadi, Kazhiyur, Pudur Chengam, Thandarai and Vediyappanur.

The other buildings are 205 school buildings constructed under the Middle School Education Scheme at a cost of Rs.346,14,77,000/- in Government High Schools in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tiruchirappalli, Nilgiris, Salem, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Tiruppur, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Madurai, Sivagangai and Dindigul.

The NABARD loan assistance is utilized for the construction of classrooms, laboratory buildings, providing drinking water, toilet facilities and construction of compound walls in 49 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools (Rs.74,52,82,000/-) in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Tiruppur, Ariyalur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Virudhunagar, Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai; and two classrooms, laboratory, toilets and compound wall in Kadavur Government Higher Secondary School, Karur District (Rs.77.86 lakh).

On Behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government
Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar
Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Programmes

Sl No.	Date	District	Sl No.	Date	District
1.	30.6.2017 - Friday	Madurai	17.	9.10.2017 - Monday	Dharmapuri
2.	22.7.2017 - Saturday	Tiruppur	18.	16.10.2017 - Monday	Kanniyakumari
3.	29.7.2017 - Saturday	Thiruvannamalai	19.	23.10.2017 - Monday	Virudhunagar
4.	5.8.2017 - Saturday	Perambalur	20.	30.10.2017 - Monday	Tiruchirappalli
5.	9.8.2017 - Wednesday	Villupuram	21.	4.11.2017 - Saturday	Theni
6.	16.8.2017 - Wednesday	Cuddalore	22.	8.11.2017 - Wednesday	Tiruvarur
7.	23.8.2017 - Wednesday	Ariyalur	23.	13.11.2017 - Monday	Tirunelveli
8.	30.8.2017 - Wednesday	Kancheepuram	24.	18.11.2017 - Saturday	Sivagangai
9.	2.9.2017 - Saturday	Thiruvallur	25.	22.11.2017 - Wednesday	Thoothukudi
10.	6.9.2017 - Wednesday	Erode	26.	29.11.2017 - Wednesday	Thanjavur
11.	9.9.2017 - Saturday	Vellore	27.	2.12.2017 - Saturday	Coimbatore
12.	11.9.2017 - Monday	The Nilgiris	28.	9.12.2017 - Saturday	Dindigul
13.	16.9.2017 - Saturday	Salem	29.	16.12.2017 - Saturday	Ramanathapuram
14.	23.9.2017 - Saturday	Krishnagiri	30.	23.12.2017 - Saturday	Nagapattinam
15.	30.9.2017 - Saturday	Namakkal	31.	30.12.2017 - Saturday	Pudukkottai
16.	4.10.2017 - Wednesday	Karur	32.	January - 2018	Chennai